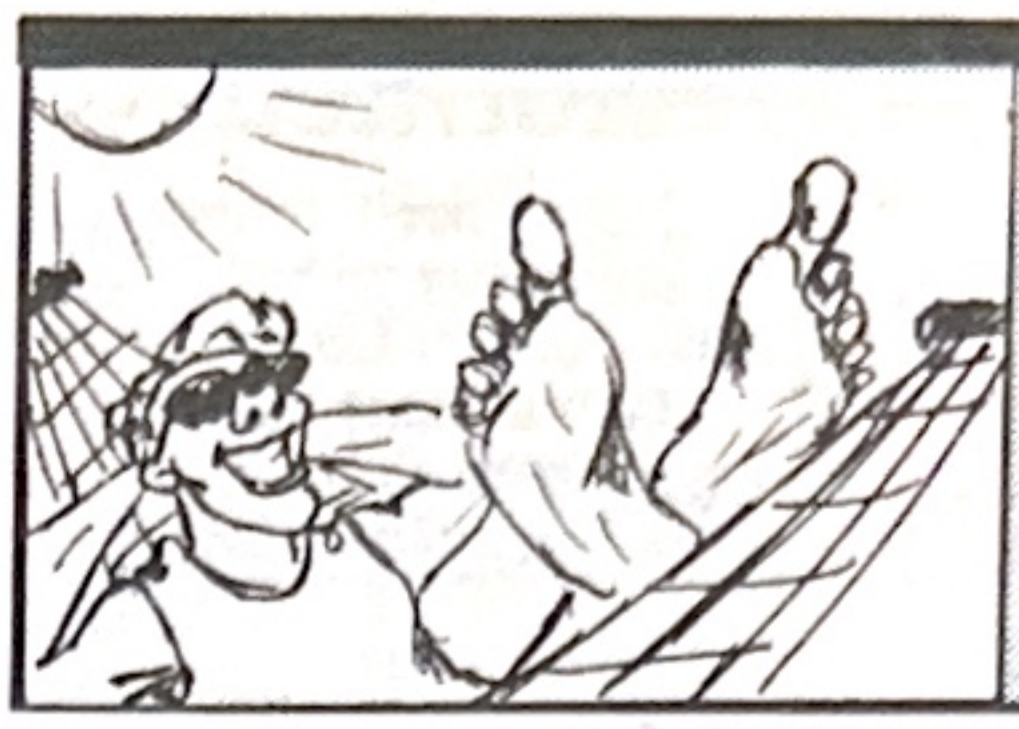
Smoking harms health

Despite the presence of constant reminders of the dangers of cigarettes, 3000 U.S. teenagers start smoking every day.

page 11



Andy's picks for spring

Andy's back and he is armed to the teeth (well, almost) with great ideas for having fun and new experiences during spring break.

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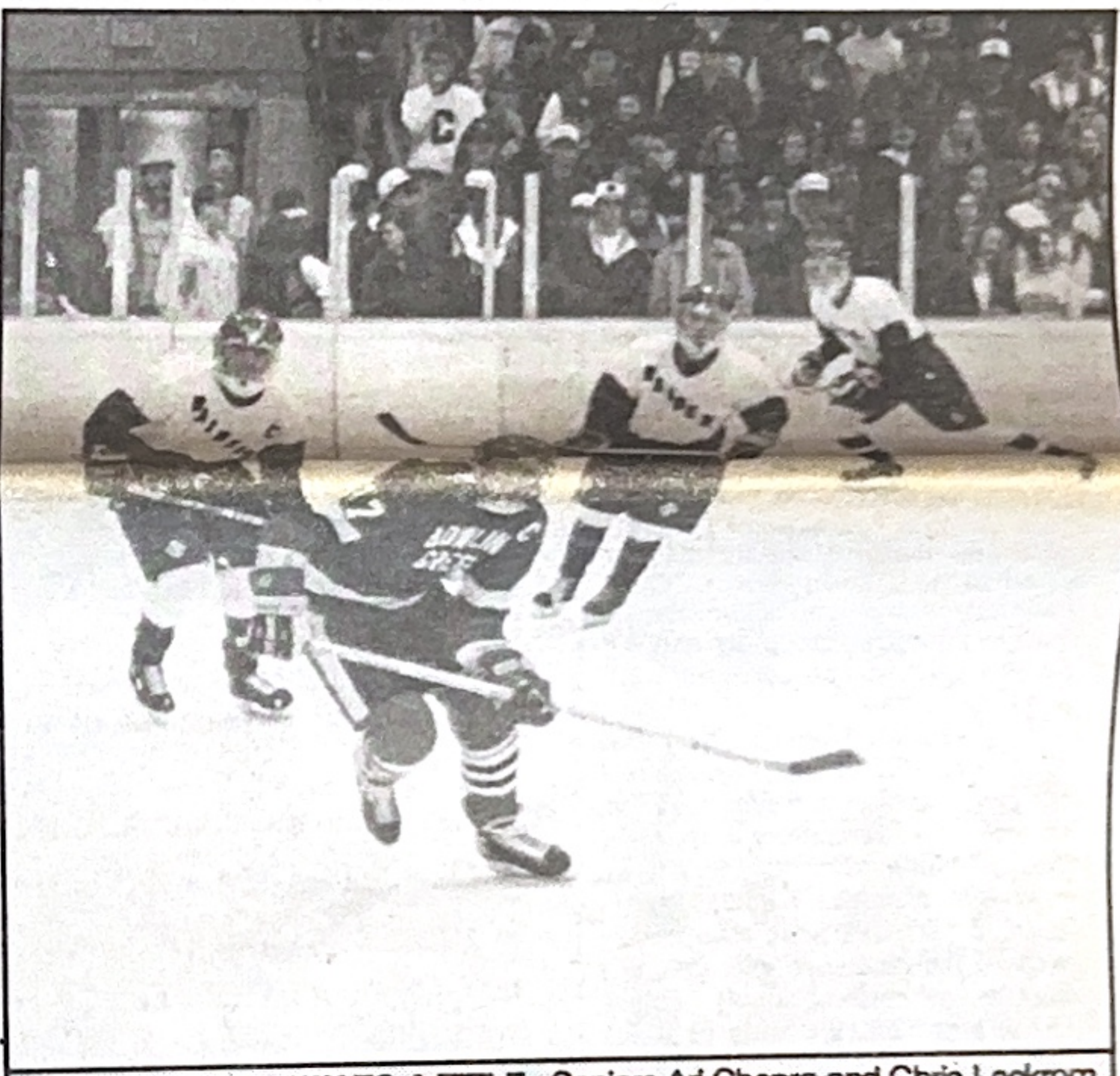
VOLUME 63 · ISSUE 4
MARCH 26, 1993
SHAKERITE
SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL · 15911 ALDERSYDE DRIVE · SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO 44120

Hockey clinches state title

BY MARK SMITH
Sports Editor



SKATING THEIR WAY TO A TITLE. Seniors Ari Chopra and Chris Lockrem and sophomore Will Simon prepare to check a Bowling Green player in front of a full house at the Brooklyn Recreation Center during the March 7 championship game.

Shakerite Photo by Jason Hamilton

The hockey team, in a fast and intense game, squeezed by Bowling Green on March 7 to win the state championship with a score of 2-1.

Shaker dominated the shots on goal column in the second and third periods, scoring two goals in the second period that held up until the end of the game.

Junior forward Dan Updegraft scored the first goal for Shaker, with assists from junior Dan Glasson and freshman Ben Simon, tying the game at 1-1 in the second period. Senior Ari Chopra scored the second goal 14 seconds before the end of the period, assisted by senior Chris Lockrem and junior Jeff Ulrich.

Coach Mike Bartley said each member of the team improved his play for the tournament.

"We built all season long," Bartley said. "We tried to refine [our play] in the tournament. We also worked together [more.]"

Chopra said the team managed to keep the intensity flowing throughout the game.

"Hustle, raw desire and a commitment to win [won the game for us,] " he said. "We tried to win every race for the puck. It was the most intense game I've ever played in my life."

Senior Chris Ticconi said the offense was assisted by a solid defense.

"We played stingy, rock solid," Ticconi said. "We won with backchecking and hustle."

Senior goalie Chris Brown praised the performance of the defense in the state final.

"We kept them [Bowling Green] out of the zone," he said. "We played an excellent game."

Brown saved five shots on goal in a power play in the first period, but allowed one goal earlier in that period.

Senior defensiveman Mike Laven said the team made defense its top priority.

"We played solid defense, [concentrating on] playing our positions, picking up your man," Laven said. "[We were] not focusing on offense too much. We were focusing on defense."

The hockey team, ranked first in the state as the game began, held Bowling Green, number two in the state, to 10 shots on goal in the first period and 10 in the second period. The Raiders had only seven shots on goal in the first, and gave up a goal that period. The team then rebounded in the second period, with 13 shots on goal.

Laven said Bowling Green's first goal did not shatter the team's confidence.

"We've been in that situation before," he said. "[But there was]a lot more nervousness because of how big the game was."

Shaker won the game without the play of senior forward Scott Frerichs, who sprained his left ankle in the state semifinal game against Toledo St. John's.

After the season, Frerichs was named the All-Sun Hockey Most Valuable Player by Sun Newspapers. Senior Ryan Mayhugh, Brown and Chopra were also named to the All-Sun team.

Laven said Frerichs would have been an asset, but they still played well without him.

"[Frerichs] is a good player," he said. "But the team does not revolve around any one player."

Frerichs was injured early in the third period of the St. John game March 6. He scored the first goal of the game, unassisted, in which Shaker shutout St. John 3-0. Lockrem, assisted by senior David Halle, scored just 84 seconds later in the first period.

The team gave St. John three power play opportunities but the Toledo team could not capitalize on them. Shaker had nearly twice the number of shots on goal in the game. The last goal was scored by Simon, assisted by senior David Oliver with 8:78 left to play.

The team also captured the Baron Cup city title, winning 17 of 17 tournament games they played this season. In the final match of that tournament, the team defeated St. Edward 7-4. Chopra scored a hat trick to lead the team to victory in the final cup game.

"St. Ed's won the league, but we came through in the clutch to win the Baron Cup," Brown said. "After losing to St. Ed's [in the final regular season game,] we really came together as a team."

Bartley, in his 17th year as hockey coach with a career record of 281–143–10, said the team will be a contender again next year.

"We have 13 players coming back next year," he said. "We'll need a lot of work on the younger guys, but we'll be competitive."

The team finished their season with a record of 24–4–1. The last time the team won a state championship was in 1981.

NEWS BRIEFS

Show date set for May

The Modern Dance Club scheduled its annual spring show for May 7 and 8.

The show will feature various styles of dance, including jazz, tap and ballet, advisers Pam Corbin and George Harley said.

"We never want to put on anything less than a perfect show," Corbin said.

The show will be better than last year, though there are not as many men in the club as there have been in previous years, club vice president Keith Oliver said.

A great deal of the talent is concentrated in the large number of new club members, senior Olga Chwascinska said.

–Jennie Reiff

Profits to pay for party

The Chagrin Department Store at Shaker Square announced recently that 10 percent of its profits from April 21 to 25 will be donated to the 1993 After Prom party. The Chagrin Department Store has also provided coupons which will indicate that all proceeds of a purchase will be contributed to the party.

–Jamil Smith

Club to sponsor festival

The Environmental Club and Interact will be sponsoring an Environmental Festival to educate students about Earth Day on April 17. The festival will include games for young kids, a poster contest, an information session and performances from several bands, according to Environmental Club co-president Karen Sykora.

Sykora said this is the first time the club has taken on such a large project.

"It is going to be a lot of work," she said.

–Rahila Ansari

Publications honored

Two student publications received national awards recently.

The Shakerite was one of 22 high school newspapers to be awarded the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Silver Crown last Sunday.

The Semanteme received a first place ranking in the CSPA's literary magazine category, and a first place with special merit from the American Scholastic Press Association earlier this year.

–Starla Wallick
Blane Sims

Actor/activist to speak at series lecture

Mike Farrell, former star of the television show "M•A•S•H" and current special commissioner on human rights for the United Nations, will be speaking at the 10th annual Shaker Lecture Series on April 19.

Farrell has traveled around the world fighting for free elections and peace, aiding refugees and political prisoners, and supplying medical and hunger relief, according to administrative assistant Dr. Dorothy Bruggeman.

Faculty considers altering AP weighting

BY REBECCA DAVIS
Feature Editor

Proposals before several faculty committees could change the current system of weighting grades for advanced placement courses, according to English teacher Dana Noble, a member of the curriculum committee.

The proposals, still in early stages of discussion, include weighting only grades of A or B, requiring that students take AP tests available at the end of an advanced placement class and eliminating AP classes that do not culminate that year in an AP exam.

Noble said he would like to see changes in the current system because of the problems he has encountered teaching his own 11 AP English classes.

"I see a lot of students in the classes who are not really exceptionally skilled students, and they're not all motivated students. [The AP program is] designed for students who are truly talented, or students who are willing to work at a college-level pace or who are interested in the material," Noble said.

Noble said that with the proposed changes, students would be less likely to choose an advanced placement class simply because of its effect on their grade point average and more likely to opt for classes suited to their ability level. On a grade scale 4.0 points, honors classes receive an extra 0.5 points and AP classes receive and additional 1.0 point.

"[Students told me that] that they weren't challenged enough in a college prep class and some said that they simply wanted the extra GPA points," Noble said. "Perhaps if we unweighted grades, students would choose [AP classes] who really wanted the challenge and wouldn't choose [AP classes] simply because there were extra points in it for them."

By reducing the number of students taking AP classes and increasing the number of motivated students in college preparatory classes, Noble said, the level of instruction in both AP and CP classes would be greater.

"College prep classes miss having students who are a little more serious or academic which might raise the level of discussion in those classes," he said.

Several teachers argue that AP courses progress over a period of several years and that AP courses without mandatory testing should be allowed because their ultimate goal is an AP test.

"[AP Calculus is] a three year course that does culminate at the end of the course with the AP test," math teacher Thomas Patrick said. "I think that students who are enrolled in the first and second years of the course deserve recognition for the level of mathematical development that they are forced to work at."

Math department head Raymond Skitzki said students are preparing for the AP exam that they take at the end of their senior year by covering some of the material that is actually on the test.

Patrick and Skitzki said AP courses for sophomores and juniors should remain as a form of encouragement and reward for students willing to undertake what Skitzki says is about twice as much work as is required for an honors course. Weighted grades serve as positive reinforcement for academically motivated students, they said.

"I would hate to see our AP class fall by the wayside," Skitzki said. "I certainly wouldn't feel justified in making students work that hard if they're not going to get credit for it."

The AP math program, which offers courses to prepare for the mathematics AB and mathematics BC exams, is quite successful in its current form, Patrick said.

"The question is, why fix something if it isn't broken?" he said.

Several students said that concern about their GPA and the college admissions process play into their decisions to take AP courses.

"Most of college acceptance is based on your GPA," junior Kevin Stear said. "Why bother doing all the work if you're not going to get the higher [cumulative GPA] for it?"

Junior Geoff Goss, who is enrolled in five AP courses this year, said that if a weighted grade were not part of the AP and honors system, he would be less likely to enroll in that many advanced classes.

"I still think I'd take [AP] classes if they weren't weighted, probably not as many though," Goss said.

English teacher George Harley, who teaches two sections of 11 AP English, would like to do away with weighted grades while maintaining the AP courses.

"I am really opposed to weighting the grades for the AP. If [students] were to get a C in the AP it would be like getting a B in the CP, and I think that that is not a reason for taking the course," Harley said.

Harley said he is concerned that too many students try to "pad" their GPA with AP class points.

"I have students who I think *should not be in the course, but if they see the grade that they receive, and they don't mind getting those* **types of grades, it's their choice.** It hinders a certain level of discussion and a certain pacing of the (AP) course because of those students. It also hurts—tremendously—the CP courses," Harley said.

Harley said he supports a multiple-year AP program for English as a way to teach a large amount of information in a reasonable time.

"You can't teach it all in one year and do an effective job," he said. "You need to have two years to expose students to [all of the] literature."

The issues remain largely on the drawing board. Once voted upon by the curriculum committee, these proposals will be brought before the steering committee, made up of department heads and administrators. If the proposal receives the steering committee's approval, it will go before the entire faculty for discussion and a possible vote. Before the proposal becomes policy, however, it must also be approved by the school board.

English department head Jon Bender emphasized the need for students to realize that these issues are still in the earliest stages of discussion.

"I think right now I want to hear everything that all the teachers have to say," Bender said. "Each department needs to take a look at its own standards and make some decisions with those standards. My standards, my challenges, haven't changed."

TO WEIGHT OR NOT TO WEIGHT: IS THAT THE QUESTION?

■ **WHY DO SOME TEACHERS THINK THAT THE CURRENT AP SYSTEM SHOULD BE CHANGED?**

✔ Some teachers say that only those students who are very talented or extremely motivated should enroll in AP classes.

✔ Some teachers say that the quality of CP-level classes are suffering because too many students are enrolled in AP and Honors classes.

✔ Some teachers say that too many students try to inflate their cumulative GPA by taking a great deal of AP and Honors courses.

■ **WHY DO SOME TEACHERS THINK THAT THE CURRENT AP SYSTEM SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED AT ALL?**

✔ Some teachers say that the current system of weighting AP classes without always requiring that the AP exam be taken is working quite well.

✔ Some teachers say that having multi-year AP courses allows more material to be better covered, and therefore allows greater success on AP exams.

✔ Some teachers say that it is up to teachers to insure that AP course standards do not fall as enrollment in those classes increases.

■ **WHAT CHANGES IN THE AP SYSTEM ARE BEING PROPOSED?**

✔ Only grades of A and B in Honors and AP classes would be weighted.

✔ All students taking AP courses would be required to take the AP exam.

✔ Only courses that end by taking the AP exam would be given AP weighting.

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Silent auction successful in raising funds for technology in Shaker schools

BY EMILY TROIA
Staff Reporter

In an effort to raise money to purchase advanced technology equipment for all Shaker Schools, the second annual Night for the Red and White was sponsored by the Friends of the Shaker Schools Foundation on March 13.

The dinner party took place at the OMNI Hotel on the Cleveland Clinic Foundation campus and involved dinner, dancing and a silent auction.

The fundraiser had 400 people in attendance and grossed $66,800 from the ticket sales which ranged from $40 to $250 per person. Twelve thousand dollars of the total amount was raised from the silent auction, according to District Communications Supervisor, Kathleen Donchess.

A sample of the auction's items include a red convertible 1993 Mazda Miata, a three or four day cruise in the Bahamas for two, a hot air balloon ride, or a home delivered gourmet dinner prepared by several school administrators.

Co-chair of the benefit, Amy Kaplan said that the money would be used to further educational opportunities for students.

"I think this event provides the Shaker schools at every level with technology that's on the cutting edge. This is a different world than when I went to school; I wish we had this kind of technology then," Kaplan said.

Kaplan said that this year's fundraiser was a bigger success than last year's and had prospects of raising more money.

"The generosity with time and money from our teachers, administrators, parents and local businesses was enormous this year," co-chair Kiki Stout said.

Donchess said that the generosity of the Shaker community was apparent by the large turn out at the benefit despite the dangerous conditions created by the severe snow storm that night.

Only 140 original ticket buyers were absent from the fundraiser, according to Donchess.

"Even Deadheads didn't go out that evening and here we were dressed up with high heels, going to downtown Cleveland in that weather. Everybody had a great time though," Donchess said.

Despite the big turnout among money donators, six student musical groups originally scheduled to perform, totaling 70 students, were forced to cancel, according to Stout.

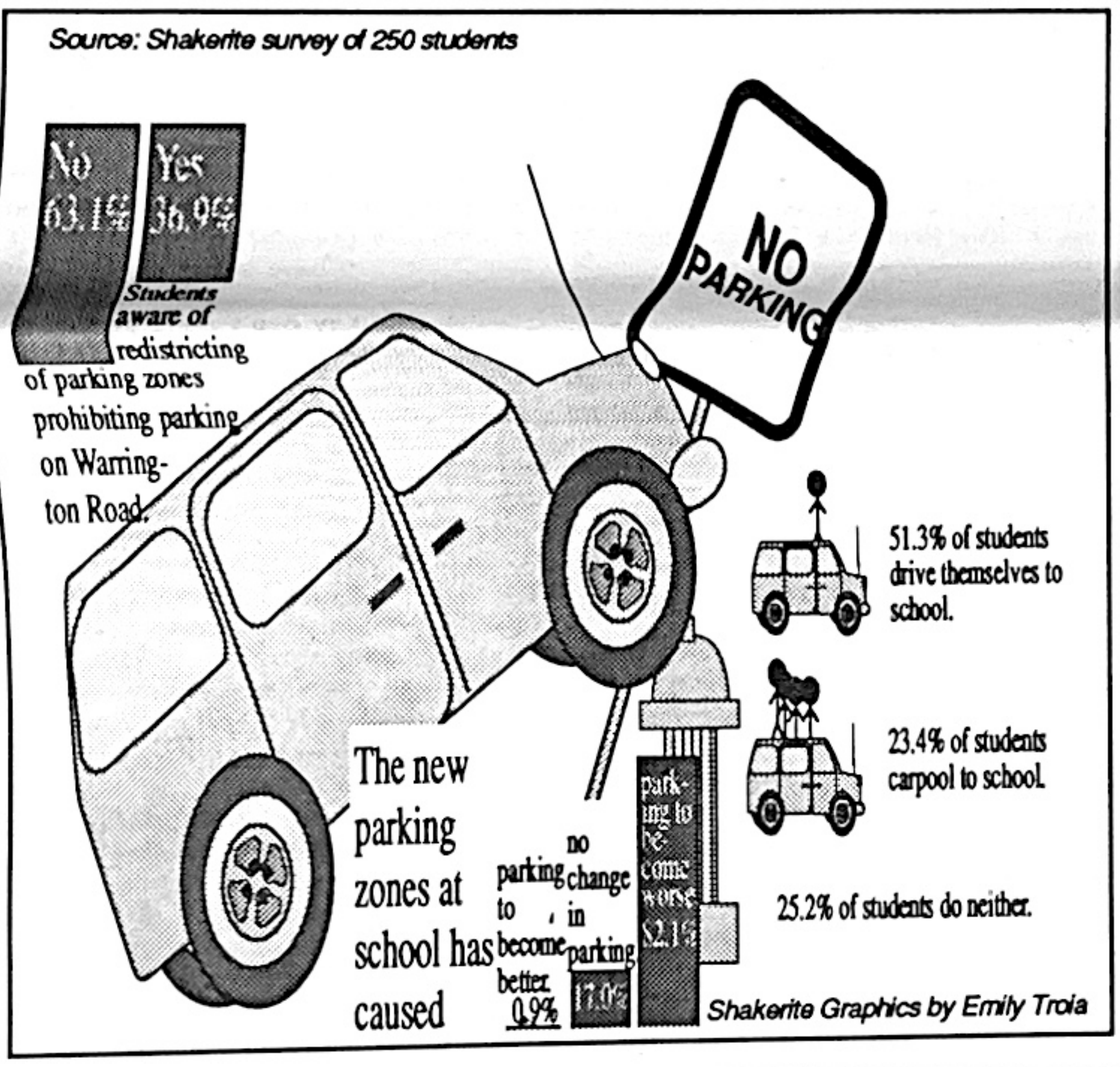
"Everything went off so smoothly, it was amazing. The only disappointment was that the kids didn't come," Stout said. "We missed them."

The best part of the event was the coming together of the community, according to Stout.

"It gave a chance for Shaker residents to meet each other. They might never come in contact with each other otherwise. We have a lot more in common than we often think," Stout said.

Students disapprove of new parking rezoning

Source: Shakerite survey of 250 students



Shakerite Graphics by Emily Troia

BY NANOR TABRIZI
Co-News Editor

In an effort to improve the parking situation, parking zones have been redistributed to prohibit parking on parts of Warrington Road as of mid-February.

According to a recent Shakerite survey of 250 students, many are effected by the new parking zones, since 51 percent of students drive themselves to school and 23 percent of students carpool with other students.

Despite the recent efforts to improve the parking situation, only 37 percent of students were aware of the changes in parking and 82 percent of students even claimed that parking has worsened.

Despite the crowded parking situation at the school, 68 percent of students still arrive at school between 7:30 and 8 a.m. In spite of this, 51 percent of students have not received a parking ticket this year and only 12 percent have received one or more tickets this year.

Senior Ted Nims said that unless the high school is willing to bus students,it should provide enough parking spaces.

Liegl triumphs at City Club debate

BY JAMIL SMITH
Co-News Editor

Senior Jeremy Liegl defeated Hawken School senior Charles Saulino in the Greater Cleveland debate finals at the Cleveland City Club on Mar. 12.

The city debate finals was a Lincoln-Douglas debate, in which debaters argue over resolutions dealing with moral issues such as flag burning or gun control. The two debaters each had the opportunity to make introductory speeches stating their position, each followed by a cross-examination and rebuttal by their opponent. The finals, which were sponsored by the Cleveland District of the Ohio Speech League, introduced the resolution, "Resolved That the Principle of Majority Rule Ought to Be Valued Above the Principle of Minority Rights." Liegl represented the minority rights, or negative, side of the issue. Liegl said that the minority rights point of view is the one that he wanted to represent.

"I won the coin toss [at noon on the day of the debate] and I chose the negative. I had argued the resolution before and I personally preferred the negative. I worked closely with [Lincoln-Douglas debate coach Robert] Sylak and the [Lincoln-Douglas] team to come up with a really good case," Liegl said.

Liegl's win avenged his loss last year in the city debate finals. Liegl commented that in last year's finals, his obsession with winning may have cost him the trophy.

"I was really focusing on trying to win the debate," Liegl said. "The City Club is a public display and I lost sight of that fact."

Liegl and Saulino used many quotes from philosophical and historical figures in their speeches. Liegl said that this element is crucial to a Lincoln-Douglas debater's speech.

"It's not required that you use them, but it really lends credibility to what you are saying," Liegl said.

Liegl gave some of the credit for his victory to Sylak and his Lincoln-Douglas debate team.

"I really have to thank Mr. Sylak for bringing the team together," Liegl said. "I also have to thank the team, especially [sophomore] Shana McCormick, [junior] Dave Sher, and [sophomore] Jimena Galvez."

Liegl qualified for the city championship debate in the Cleveland District tournament in February. He had an undefeated 8-0 record there. In the weekend before the City Club finals, Liegl finished second to Magnificat senior Michelle Povinelli

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(Un)conventional Wisdom: Your guide to what's up, down and in-between

SCHOOL ISSUES EDITION

↑ Senior Project: Seniors are psyched and ready to go.

↔ Lunch periods: 23 minutes is short, but no problem for seniors with three lunches.

↓ Homeroom: Waste of time, plus UW heard rumors of everyday homeroom next year.

↔ Snow days: UW thought we'd never have one, but we did. Too bad it'll be 10 years until the next.

Hunger drive shatters image of an apathetic Shaker

THE RITE IDEA

Too often in our suburban community, we try to mentally shut out the world's problems, believing that, since they do not exist in our community, we have no responsibility for them.

Occasionally a few people in the community are generous enough to reach out to help solve these problems, but they are often met with astonishing apathy. Some citizens even have the nerve to say that their problems are comparable to starvation. However, in the hunger drive held on March 8-19 for Cleveland's Harvest for Hunger, the high school was awakened due to the hard work of seniors Meredith Balcerzak and Jodi Wilkoff, who organized the hunger drive.

According to Balcerzak, the total amount of food donated approximately doubled last year's total. These two seniors offered prizes ranging from prom tickets to Principal Jack Rumbaugh's parking spot to the chance to lead next year's Homecoming Parade in Lolley the Trolley, hoping to entice students to give. Balcerzak, Wilkoff, and senior Christiana Grosemann put up large, colorful posters promoting the drive. At the beginning of the hunger drive, Balcerzak and Wilkoff sent letters to all teachers encouraging them to incorporate the concepts of hunger and homelessness into their curriculum. Despite all of their efforts, in the first week the donations were few. The collection bins in the main office and in the hallways were virtually empty. Shaker's reluctance to give was shown when, after the first few days of the drive, they had collected a pitiful $15 and a small number of cans.

Towards the end of the second week of the drive, though, the food started to come in rapidly. Dozens of bags filled with food could be seen at the collection sites. Generous checks began pouring in.

One teacher that also deserves recognition for his efforts is math teacher Dennis Hogue. Hogue's efforts dramatically changed the course of the drive. In addition to bringing several food items himself, he encouraged his five math classes to bring food by giving them two extra credit points for every can they donated to the hungry. Hogue's students also donated over $700. According to Balcerzak, Hogue's efforts were responsible for approximately half of the total amount of food donated.

Despite the success of the sale, it took nearly a week compiled with a great amount of arm-twisting in the form of incentives for students to begin bringing in food. Is that what it takes to get people to donate? It is OK that this needs to happen to get us to give, but it would be better if it didn't. Hopefully next year the student body will awaken from its apathetic slumbers earlier and surpass this years donations.

The recent efforts of Balcerzak, Wilkoff, and Hogue are an example to us all. There is a natural tendency within all of us is to look out for ourselves first, to forget about everyone else. The hunger drive's results illustrate that our school community is beyond that narrow-minded attitude, even if we had to be stimulated by various prizes. They also serve to show us all that the need to give to those who are less fortunate can only appeal to the best nature in all of us.

CHEERS & JEERS

Cheers to the NCAA Mens Basketball Tournament, the sporting event of the year.

Jeers to whoever is responsible for closing all of the good parking around this school.

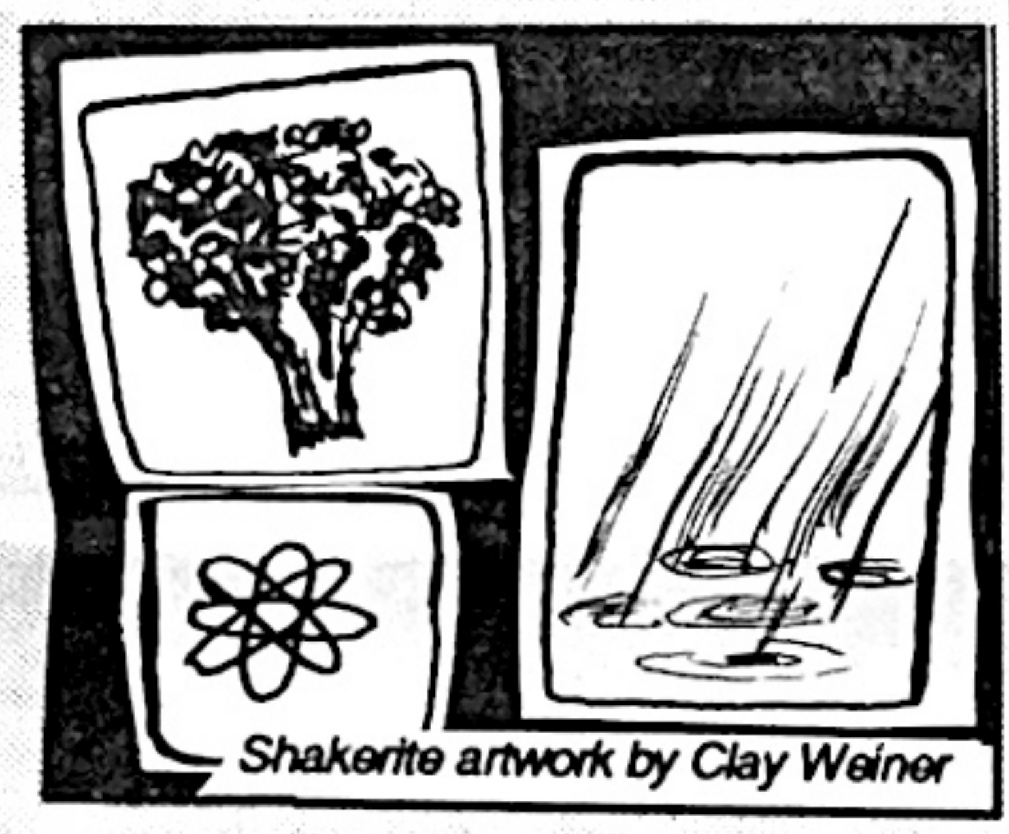
***Cheers** to the hockey team for its State Championship.*

Jeers to whoever scheduled the Winter Sports State Honors pep assembly for after school. Having assemblies after school results in smaller attendance.

Cheers to me, because I'm good enough, I'm smart enough, and doggone it, I deserve it.

Jeers (to the fifth power) to the administration for continually failing to put doors on the bathroom stalls. Let my people "GO."

Cheers to the hunger drive and those who supported it.



Shakerite artwork by Clay Weiner

Jeers to teachers who try to give second semester seniors homework. Give us a break, OK. 25 DAYS!!!

Cheers to the coming of spring, even though this means that we won't have another snow day this decade.

Jeers to things that are evil, such as rain, broccoli, and physics.

Shakerite artwork by Clay Weiner

Editors outline dramatic new changes

If you are struck with the feeling that something is radically different about this issue of the Shakerite, there is no need to refocus your eyes—we've pretty much changed everything. The flag on the front, the content of some of our pages and even the typefaces we have chosen for text and headlines have been rethought and redesigned.

As a student newspaper, the Shakerite enjoys the luxury of being able to refine itself as often as is absolutely necessary. Unlike most professional publications, which tend to be very reluctant to change even minor details, we can adapt our pages to keep up with important trends in content and design in order to serve our readers better.

What you see in this month's paper is the result of several months of planning. We have designed a more contemporary flag and all of the articles and headlines are set in a new, more appealing typeface. More important than the changes we have made in the how the paper looks, though, are the alterations we have made to its contents. We have expanded the "briefs" in each section to provide greater coverage. Debuting this issue is the Arts & Entertainment section, which was created by combining the Spotlight and Entertainment pages. As the name implies, the Arts & Entertainment pages will provide you with a broader range of features on the fine arts in the school and the community, and with perspective on the area's entertainment offerings.

Perhaps the most difficult change that this staff has made this issue, though, is one that our readers will probably never see. For the past seven years, the Shakerite has been on the forefront of desktop publishing technology, using Macintosh computer systems to compose every page of the newspaper electronically. During that time, the staff has used page layout software called Aldus PageMaker to bring our articles and graphics together onto one page. This month, though, we have retired Aldus PageMaker and have begun using a very powerful software package called Quark XPress. After hours of relearning the basics of putting the publication together, we have emerged with the pages that you see before you.

So, take an extra few minutes to give everything in this issue a second look, and let us know what you think! As we said above, every change that we have made is one that we think will make the Shakerite more informative and easier to read.

Blane Sims
Jeremy Paris
Co-Editors-in-Chief

The Shakerite is a public forum published nine times yearly for and by the students of Shaker Heights High School.

Letters to the editor must be signed and may not exceed 250 words. Letters, subscription and advertising inquiries should be delivered to the Shakerite office in Room 229, or mailed to: The Shakerite, 15911 Aldersyde Drive, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120. The Shakerite reserves the right to reject or edit any letter to the editor or advertisement.

Opinions expressed in Shakerite articles are those of their respective authors, and do not represent the views of the Shakerite, Shaker Heights High School or the Shaker Heights City School District. The "Rite Idea" presents the views of the editorial board; however, it may not reflect the opinion of the Shakerite staff.

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SHAKERITE

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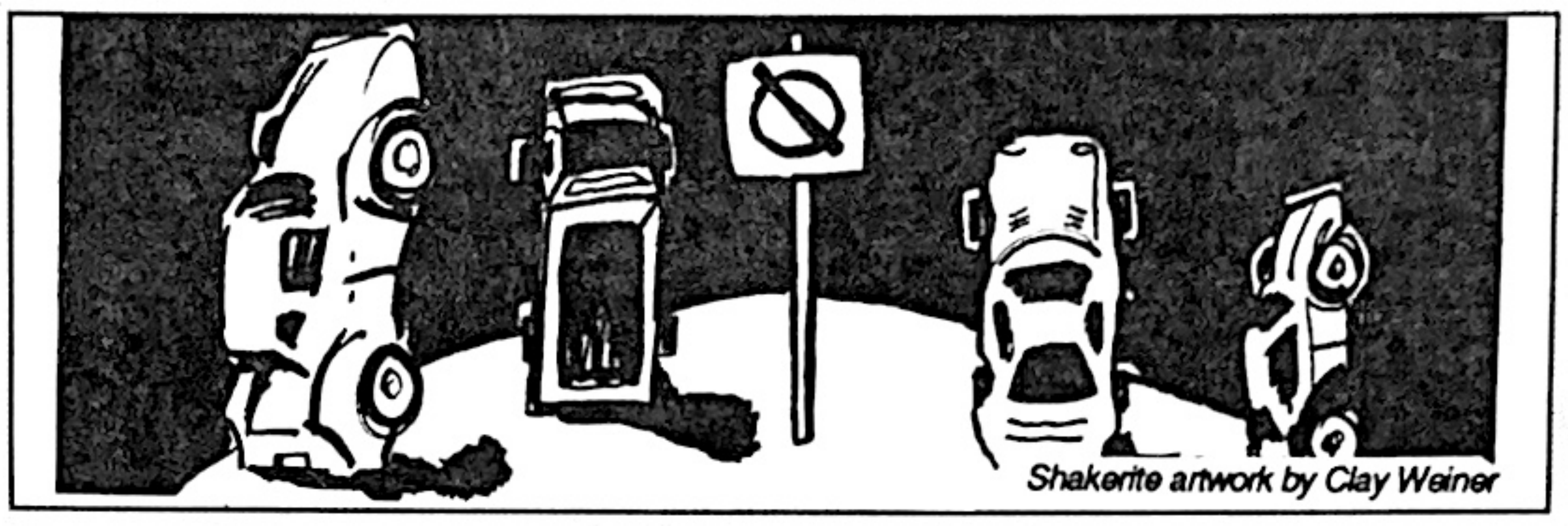
Student parking situation remains muddled, traumatic

PERSPECTIVE

BY JEFF EPSTEIN
Opinion Editor

It is 6:30 in the morning, and you arrive at school, praying that there will be a parking spot left. As you drive into the vicinity of the school, your passenger gets out his binoculars and begins to scout out a parking spot. He sees one, and you pull into a parking spot in a deep recess of the oval. As you step out of your car, you open your trail map and start the long hike through the snow and ice to get to the school. After nearly being hit by 11 cars which come hurtling around the oval, you arrive in the parking lot where you walk by teachers who are casually strolling into the building. You crawl through the door, frostbitten and exhausted, but ready for first period.



Shakerite artwork by Clay Weiner

Plain and simple, the parking situation stinks. Teachers can arrive at any time they please before 8:00 a.m., pull into a plowed parking lot, find a space and walk several steps into the school. Meanwhile, students must arrive at least half an hour before school begins in order to get a parking spot within walking distance of the school and then slog through sleet, hail and snow to get to the building. Why should we have to do this? The school provides no bussing, and driving is the best way to get to school.

At other area schools there are student parking lots which either charge an annual fee or provide space free of charge. Here we are forced to fight for parking spots on the street within a two-mile radius of the school. Shouldn't Shaker's parking match its academic reputation?

The fact is that the parking situation is one of the most talked about problems of this school and is one which has been ignored for quite a long time.

Recently a "new" parking plan was instituted which has created more problems than it solves. For some unknown reason, the closest student parking to the school, along Onaway, has been closed off. Closing this off eliminates about eight parking spots. More recently, an "unloading zone" was created on Aldersyde near the south parking lot, eliminating other choice parking spots. Is the goal of the school board and the city to make us all physically fit by walking 10 miles to school? A strip of parking near the administration building on Ashford was opened, adding some spots, but they are far away from the school and they cancel out the closed ones. Additionally, several spaces in front of the building on Laurel were opened, but all of the openings do not make up for the space taken away by closing Onaway and closing Warrington for only short term parking.

There are not enough spots for all of the students that drive to school. This problem is compounded by the fact that many sophomores are beginning to drive to school. This problem is compounded by the fact that those students who arrive really early seem to think it is cool to leave five to seven feet between their cars, just a large enough spot so that my car won't fit. This problem is compounded by the fact that about the same percentage of students who pass proficiency tests on the first try know how to parallel park. These problems are compounded by the fact that the police are not lenient when students are forced to park illegally. As you can see, there are a whole lot of problems being compounded on top of each other and it just isn't pretty.

The hypocrisy of the administration in treating student motorists is evident. At school sporting events, such as football games, parking is permitted on both sides of the streets, in illegal parking zones and basically everywhere. However, when it is time for school, students are forced to park as far away as Warrington so they can park legally (although Warrington is now only open for short term parking).

Quite simply, let us park. Maybe the teachers should park around the oval one day when eight inches of snow is coming down while the students park in the lot. Maybe we should build an underground student parking garage. Maybe we should just park our cars on top of one another, or on the football field, or in the social room. Send your suggestions to: People Who Should Realize That Parking At Shaker High School Stinks, c/o Shaker Hts. City School District, 15600 Parkland Dr., Shaker Hts. OH, 44120.

Student laments *restricted parking*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

I left for Washington, D.C. on Feb.10. I returned to school Feb. 16 with everyone else. However, I was caught off guard when I realized that we are unable to park in between the driveways of the parking lot. What possible lapse of logic occurred that would allow the administration to do this? In four years I've never written a letter, but this problem is so easily solvable that I've written twice because ignorance is so frustrating. It is similar to the lack (or complete absence) of bathroom doors. Both problems are pointless, and both problems are either ignored or have been made worse.

This is what I imagine happened. There was a school board meeting. Someone stated that parking is inconvenient and someone should investigate alternative methods of parking. However, a miscommunication occurred and short term parking was established on Warrington. Then, as a practical joke (that isn't even close to being funny), parking was eliminated between the two driveways of the auditorium parking lot. Simultaneously, police are increasing their worthiness by distributing more tickets (let's hear it for Shaker's finest!). Now the school board has effectively and efficiently alleviated the problem, right?

Joel Freimuth, Senior

Choir article lacks complete coverage

To the editor:

As I was leafing through the Shakerite and saw the article about the Mozart Concert, my pulse rate quickened and I eagerly began reading it. But after a few paragraphs my excitement died and was replaced by indignation. The article left out a few things and contained some inaccuracies. After asking some fellow choir members I found I wasn't the only one who felt that way. First of all, both the A Capella Mixed and Women's Choirs will be performing. Second, although faculty and orchestra soloists were recognized, choir soloists were overlooked. In the piece "Regina Coeli" there is a quartet of soloists. They are Colleen Welsh, Nicole Strachan, Larry Braddell and David Pitman. There is also a soloist for the "Requiem" and that is me, Asherith Even.

Excuse me for not being modest, but these solos are accomplishments. They take a lot of extra time and work outside of school whether vocal or instrumental. Maybe the reporter should have spent their extra time making sure the article was accurate.

Asherith Even, Senior

Diving team neglected at sports banquet

To the editor:

I was more than a wee-bit peeved, to say the least, by what transpired during the first potion of the Winter Sports Awards presentation on Monday, March 15, 1993.

First of all, as each team was recognized, along with their captains, the diving team was forgotten. Also, the captains of this team were not acknowledged. These omissions, although uncalled for, are forgivable. As much as the swimming cult, oops, I mean team, hates to recognize the fact, the diving team is actually a branch of the swimming team; however, the only thing in common is that both compete in the same meets. Thus, not mentioning the diving team as its own, along with its corresponding captains is pardonable.

But, what is, without a doubt, unforgivable was the rudeness displayed toward the diving coach, Jeremy Rosenthal. It appeared that all of the coaches and assistant coaches (and trainer) of all of the teams were announced. Rosenthal's name was not. Why not? I do not know but, if someone would like to inform me, I am all ears. Omissions such as that are disrespectful and should not happen in the future awards presentations. I hope that the appropriate apologies will be made.

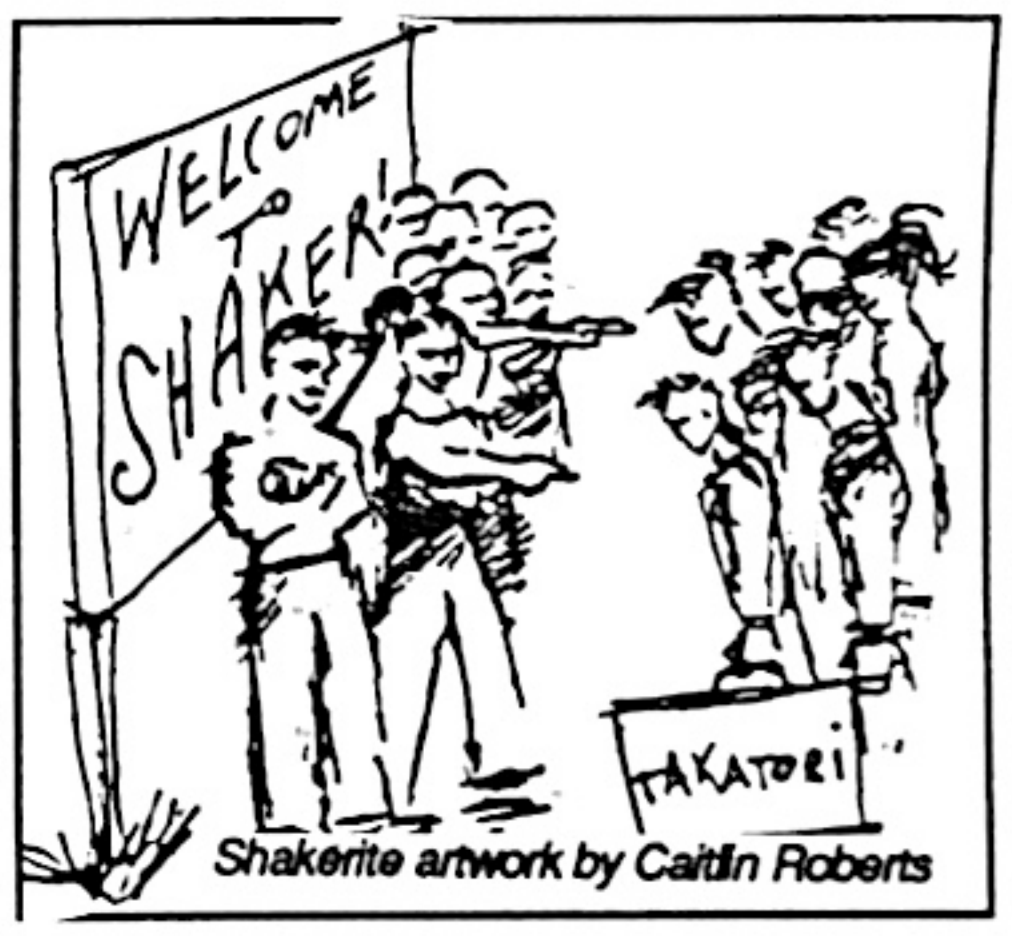
Greg Gobel, senior

Bigotry manifested in Japan bashing

BY JOSH GOODMAN
Co-Centerpiece Editor

"Toyota: The Same People Who Brought You Pearl Harbor."

Driving home from school a few weeks ago, I saw this statement on a bumper sticker plastered to the back of a van. Then, the Japanese students from Takatori came to Shaker and I once again encountered a form of racism, equally inexcusable.



Shakerite artwork by Caitlin Roberts

Whether one regards Shaker to be an integrated school or not, there is no denying that issues of race and bigotry are on the forefront of the minds of both students and faculty. Repeatedly in forums such as the Shakerite as well as others, racism and bigotry have been recognized as a problem and condemned when appropriate.

But to truly be considered a racially sensitive school, we must begin to recognize that racism and bigotry extend far beyond issues of black and white. Persons of Asian descent are also a unique entity deserving our respect. Why, then, have I seen so many students so blatantly discriminate against our guests from Takatori?

Bigotry is a very relative term. In today's politically correct society (as well as here at Shaker), we have declared white on black racism and anti-Semitism to be unacceptable. Yet, it was from a fellow Jew that I heard all that the the Japanese were good for was for making Nintendos. And it was from a black student that I heard a statement describing the Japanese as being nerds, and only interested in buying up America. Still, I have no doubt that both of these students would be the first to stand up and condemn racism when directed against their minority group.

This type of hypocrisy on the part of *Shaker's minority groups is very disturbing. Blacks, as well as Jews, should know better than most the tremendous impact bigotry has on people. Have the fires of the concentration camps grown so cold and have the screams of slavery grown so silent that* blacks and Jews are willing to accept hatred against others.

Maybe its ignorance, because Shaker has so few Asian American students at our school. Or maybe, it is just plain immaturity. But whatever the motivating cause behind one's prejudices against the Japanese, the end result is the same—people get hurt. It is about time that members of this school recognize bigotry as a problem which extends beyond the boundaries of race.

Unfortunately, Japan-bashing is not restricted to Shaker alone. In the past five years, anti-Asian sentiments have been increasing at an alarming rate. Many Americans have been lead to believe that the Japanese are the cause of our economic despair. The truth is, however, that if it were not for the Japanese our economy would be in even a more depressing state than it is now.

Millions of Americans owe their job to the fact that Japanese businesses have made capital investments here in America. In Ohio Honda's largest American plant employs many Americans, providing a wealth of jobs.

As Japan continues to flex its economic muscle in the upcoming years, Japanese and Asian influences in the United States will become increasingly more common. How we deal with this influence will be the benchmark measurement of how accepting of a society we really are. Let's not forget the ideas our country was founded upon.

Senior year myths dispelled by reality

BY NANOR TABRIZI

Co-News Editor

It can strike at any time, anywhere.

An uncontrollable panic.

A minute ago, you were successfully lulling yourself into believing that you would be the one chosen out of millions of students applying to your first choice college. This minute, however, there is no doubt in your mind that you will be rejected from every single college that you applied to and spend the rest of your life as a failure. During these few months, you can be induced to cry with the slightest provocation, succumb to long bouts of sleep, and know the pleasures of waking up after a sweat chilling nightmare about ripping open rejection letters (I have had three of these dreams already).

Underclassmen, welcome to your future as a second semester senior. (This is no joke. The symptoms of seniorhood described earlier are NOT exaggerated.)

The reality of a second semester senior's life is a far cry from the utopian illusion of no homework, no worry and no stress that most students feed on for three and a half years.

Many misconceptions are attached to seniorhood. In an effort to save future seniors from the let-down experienced by current seniors, I will attempt to dispel some of these myths by sharing with you my personal experiences as a second semester senior.

Myth #1: Second semester grades do not matter.

Wrong! It seems that all seniors do nowadays is brag that we have no more finals and don't have to worry about grades. News-flash! The majority of seniors have not been accepted to college yet. Until we all do get accepted, colleges will be evaluating us on all of our grades.

Myth #2: Seniors don't have any stress.

Maybe you haven't taken a look at college applications yet. If not, let me give you a sneak preview at the object which will give you many stressful hours of enjoyment as a senior.

At first glance, a college application may appear to be a simple project. First impressions are always misleading.

For example, here is a paraphrase of a typical essay question that colleges like to ask.

"Name every single minute event in detail that has impacted your life, discuss your childhood, your likes, dislikes, your worst fears, your aspirations, your goals, and your chosen future career in three short paragraphs."

Will the college that I am applying to reject my essay if I extend three paragraphs into four? What is a short paragraph? What if my paragraphs are too long? What if there are more than three short paragraphs of significant things that have happened to me in my life?!

Another hassle for many seniors is filing financial aid forms. There are 50 questions on one form, and for only one answer, you are asked to add up a column of 17 digits, subtract it from your GAI, and then compare it to figures on form B. Huh?

Then there are the deadlines. Just looking at the word 'deadline' evokes stress. Couple college applications deadline, with three college essays, your history test tomorrow, and three term papers due in a month, and you will begin to understand why seniorhood is overrated.

Myth #3: Meeting Senior Project requirements is easy.

You would be surprised at how hard it is to maintain a C grade point average, a new requirement for seniors planning on participating in senior project, if you are not doing any work.

One can't win as a second semester senior. I feel guilty if I don't do my homework, but when I do start working, I feel deprived and miserable about working even during my last semester when I am supposed to be on hiatus.

Myth #4: Senior year is the best year of high school.

Not only is senior year the worst year of high school, but it is also the worst year of my life. Let me put it this way. I've enjoyed my senior year as much as I enjoy slamming a car door on my finger.

Most would equate seniorhood with carefree teenagers who go out every night and don't care about school work.

Meet this senior. I usually only go out on weekends. I try to complete my homework, and I am STRESSED! I can no longer relate to high school life let alone enjoy it. My sole occupation is to worry about college next year.

For those of you who are looking forward to your senior year, heed my warning that it is not paradise.

Social Security in need of reform

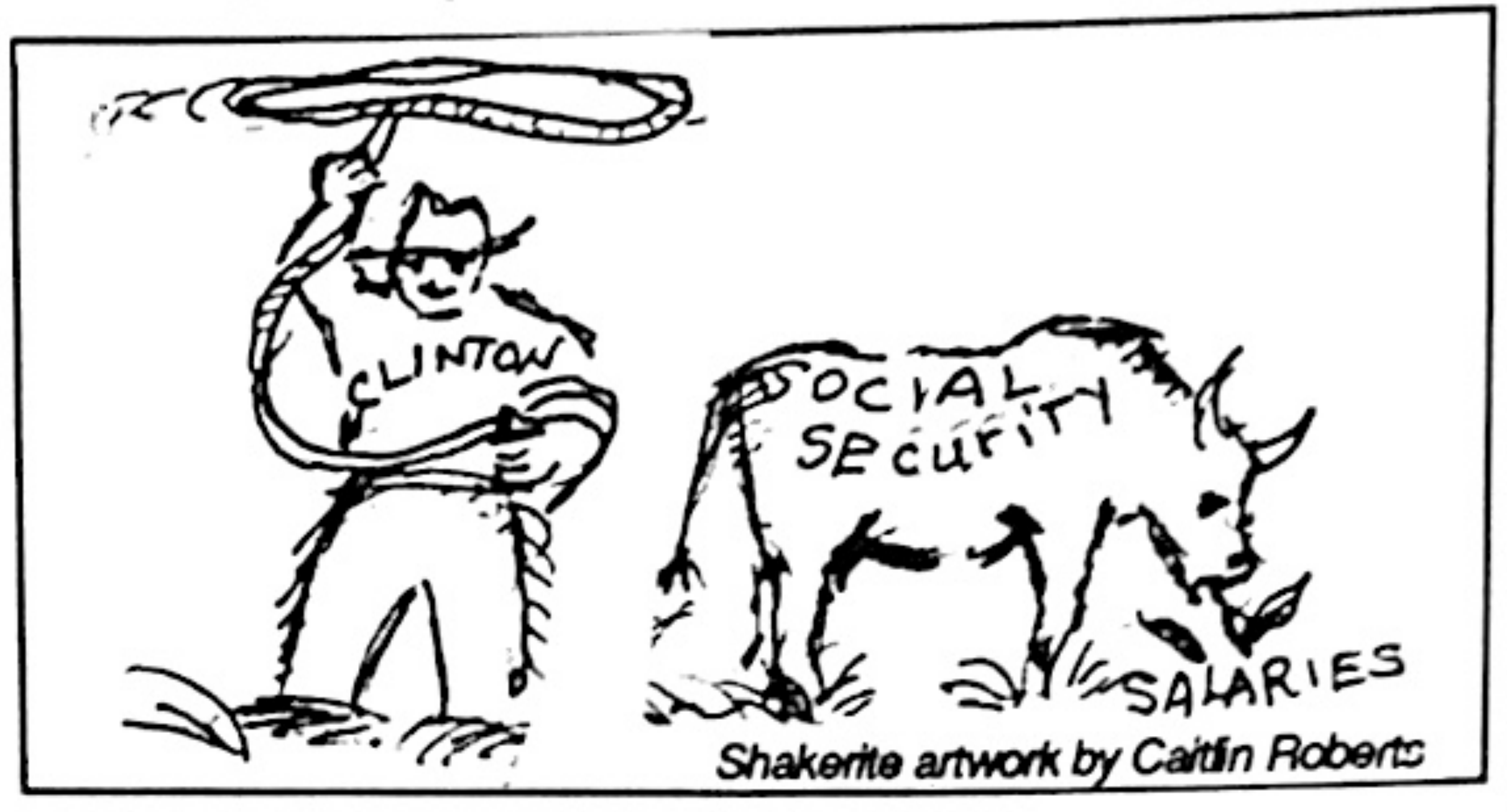
BY JEREMY PARIS

Co-Editor-in-Chief

President Clinton recently proposed a new budget to Congress which included an increase in taxes as well as several cuts in federal spending with the ultimate aim of reducing the national debt.

Although Clinton's economic plan has been generally well received by the American people, it has been attacked by Republicans as raising taxes without attempting enough spending cuts. Clinton has immediately been labeled by them as a traditional "tax and spend" democrat.

In response to these attacks, he has put out the feelers for different types of spending cuts.



Shakerite artwork by Caitlin Roberts

Rumor had it that he was considering some cuts in Social Security. When these rumors hit, a collective shudder went up the spines of Americans everywhere. "You can't cut Social Security," they said. The American Association of Retired People (AARP), one of the most powerful lobby groups in Washington has, for obvious reasons, protested heavily any moves against Social Security.

Since its inception following the Great Depression, the Social Security system has been the sacred cow of American politics. Even the slightest attempt to move against it has meant political death for the attemptee. However, several factors have led Social Security, in its present form, to be simply too heavy a burden for the working population to bear.

The way Social Security works is that a percentage of the salaries of working Americans is taken out and put into the Social Security fund. That money is then used to support retired people. Then, when those original working people retire, they are supported by the money that the current working people pay into the fund.

Since Social Security was first implemented, the average life span has increased, meaning that people live longer into their retirement and have to be supported longer.

In addition to an increase in medical technology enabling longer life, the huge post-WWII baby boom generation is beginning to inch closer and closer to retirement age. The subsequent generation is significantly smaller than that of the baby boom. The result of this has already begun on a smaller scale; fewer workers will be supporting more retirees.

The resources of the country will be diverted toward supporting a huge retired population. To put it bluntly, the massive amount of Social Security will rob the working and future generations of their financial future.

The problem is compounded as the powerful AARP has made it clear that they will not stand for any freeze in Cost Of Living Increases (COLA's) which add to the cost of Social Security, an action which Clinton has considered taking.

However, the solution to this problem, although definitely not guaranteed to eliminate the crunch, is not that complicated. First of all it is necessary to limit Social Security to those who need it. There is a segment of the retired population which, although it has saved enough income to live well, still collects Social Security on the premise that they put money in, so they should take money out. This has to end. Social Security money, like any tax, should be put to use where it is needed- with the retired people who need it to live.

In addition to this, the retirement age, at least in many professions, needs to be raised. With an improvement in the quality of medicine people can work for a greater portion of their lives and support themselves. Thus, the amount of years people would be supported by Social Security would decrease.

With the continued graying of America, Social Security threatens to overburden the American economy. Very soon, the United States will not be able to support its retired population in Social Security's present form. Changes must be made in the system before the entire economy is used to support the retired.

Memorization, cheating invade school life

BY VANYA GREEN

Staff Reporter

It is 11 on a Thursday night. You've just finished two hours of busy work for science, but hey, it's fun to find elements in a crossword puzzle.

"My Spanish vocabulary quiz - I totally forgot!" you think out loud.

Friday morning comes sooner than you had hoped and you haven't even opened your book. Two minutes before class starts you cram the information into your brain. Rows of students around you have little sheets of paper under their hands. They transfer the information from their cheat sheets to the quiz. Is this scene familiar?

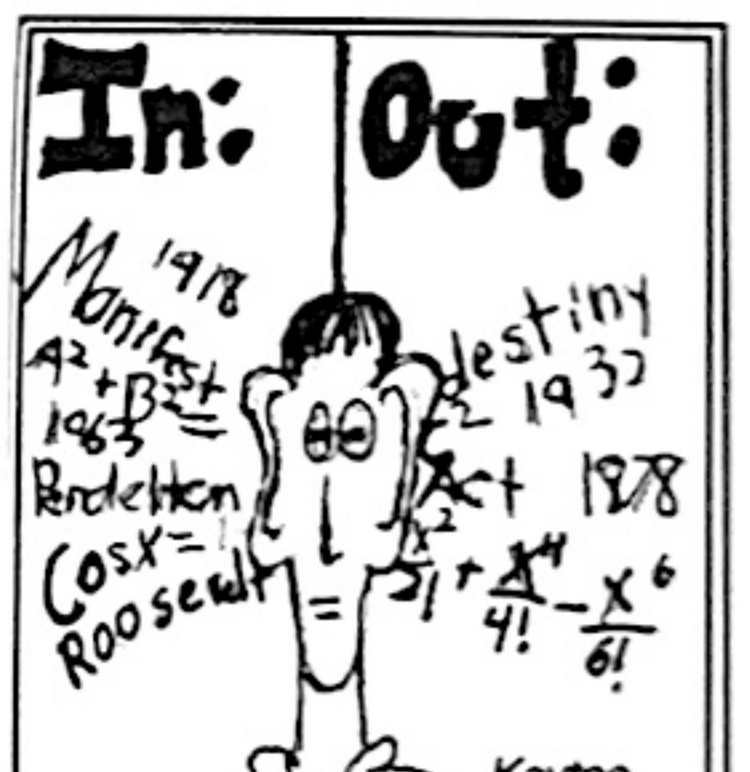
No learning has taken place in the entire process. In order to ensure that students "learn", teachers develop stricter policies and guidelines. The desire to cheat among students remains because many students are not interested in learning.

Cheating and cramming are results of our education system. How long does that information from last minute cramming remain in our brains? Five minutes, maybe? Wouldn't it be nice to just come to school and learn? We could sit together and discuss what is important rather than having capsules of information being thrown at us. This is the crux of many problems within our school. Students are often criticized for not being motivated to "enrich" themselves. However, school has drifted from a place of learning to an isolated haven for memorized material.

The lack of motivation is not solely the fault of the students. In fact it stems from the attitude in which teaching is approached in many cases. Intellectually stimulating conversations are stifled by teachers who slavishly cling to a course syllabus. It seems as though every time a class engages in substantive debate, the teacher will say, We're getting off the subject," and return to his or her lecture.

According to Terry Pollack, social studies department head, he and director of curriculum Dr. William Newby used to teach a course called "Flexible American Studies," where students and the teachers would work in small groups on what they wanted to learn.

Newby said that students were responsible for managing their study groups and would meet when needed. In order to demonstrate what they discovered, students would present a project and paper at the end of the year. According to Newby, the student interest was too low to continue with the class. Pollack, on the other hand, said that the class was discontinued several years ago because "it was too liberal."



Shakerite Artwork by Kaytee Schmidt

"It's easier to have a schedule made out for you," Newby said. "I think that far too often students wind up in traditional classes and become passive. The methodology that we have created either encourages or condones passivity,"

If being liberal means studying what students want to learn instead of memorizing mandated material which will probably never be useful, then what is wrong with that? But there are always excuses.

- "We have to stick to the book."

Most students do not remember facts from high school, but rather acquire conceptual knowledge. Therefore the curriculum and teaching could be geared more towards concepts and thinking.

- "I'm supposed to prepare you for next year."
- "I don't get to decide what I teach you."

It is generally true that teachers have a mandated curriculum which teaches to tests rather than learning. However, many teachers could make a more concerted effort to making information relevant and interesting.

For our school to remain one of the best high schools in the nation, then we must be on the forefront of the trend in progressive education. We must move away from forcing students to regurgitate material in an inflexible curriculum. We must fulfill the life long American dream of educating our citizens.

If what the city of Shaker Heights says is true, "A community is known by the schools it keeps," then we must return to the ideology that our schools were founded on.

Art department sale to benefit Ghana

Students from ceramics and craft classes sold their art work on March 18 in order to benefit needy citizens of Ghana. The sale was very successful with profit of $243.05, art teacher Becky Bunosky said.

"Mrs. Weiner (co-coordinator of the sale) and I were overwhelmed in a way because the response was much better than we expected," Bunosky said.

Animation undergoes rebirth

BY CARTER BAYS
Staff Reporter

We are experiencing a Renaissance.

You may not have noticed it, but recently a noble art form that seemed dead for so many years has made an astonishing, phoenix-like rise from the ashes of monotony and obscurity. What once was a virtual symbol of commercialism and lowest-common-denominator appeasement is now the medium of choice for creative minds everywhere.

I am referring, of course, to television cartoons.

That's right, no longer will we have to put up with shows like *Mr. T* or *The Snorks* that helped make the 80's such a dark and gloomy decade. The new breed of broadcast animation is highly original, cutting edge material that taps deep into the jugular of modern pop culture, a revolution that will hearken many nostalgics back to the heyday of *Rocky and Bullwinkle*.

But now that animation has once again invaded the mainstream, the question still remains: Which cartoons are actually worth watching nowadays? How do I separate the bull from the Bullwinkle.

Well, that's what I'm here to tell you.

Here's a little overview of some of the best shows on television - all of which happen to be animated.

The Simpsons

OK, OK, OK... Yes, they sold out. Yes, they're old news. Yes, Bart is no longer "cute" ... Say what you will about this show, but the fact remains that this gem from the mind of Matt Groening is still one of the best things on television. With a supporting cast boasting notables like Krusty the Klown, Itchy and Scratchy, Mr. Burns, Smithers, Barney and guest voices ranging from Spinal Tap to Michael Jackson to Elizabeth Taylor, the Simpsons still radiate that quirky comedy that made them so popular back when they were new. Sure, they're still tasteless, ignorant and obnoxious, but isn't that what American culture is all about?

Ren and Stimpy

Now, this show, on the other hand, is an example of a popular show that really has gotten worse. Ren, that ever-malicious Chihuahua, and his friend Stimpy, that ever-joyful cat, have completely cleaned up their act this year thanks to a new (and highly scrutinized) staff of artists and writers. That's right, no more jokes about bodily functions, no more soap ice cream bars, no more litterboxes and no more visits from the Shaved Yak. But I'd say it's worth watching anyway. If you're lucky, you'll catch a rerun.

Batman:The Animated Series

If you haven't seen *Batman Returns*, don't bother; it isn't nearly as good as this triumph of "film noire" animation. It's as though the creators of the series took everything that's good about the comic book Batman, the original TV show *Batman* and the film *Batman*, and trashed the rest. Yes, it's that good.

Beavis and Butthead

You can only take a joke so far. This is the old law of comedy that Mike Judge, creator of Beavis and Butthead, seems to want to erase from conventional wisdom. The title characters on this show never change their routine: sitting on a couch, watching videos on MTV, and pointing out the obvious ("That guy's old." or "Snakes are cool."). Of course, they make occasional trips to the blood bank (to try to sell blood) or the dolphin tank at the zoo (to stage a prank involving helium balloons and a slingshot) or the wastelands (for a game of "Frog Baseball") but sooner or later, they always end up back on the couch. All the same, if somebody wants to poke fun at metalheads and hippies, like this show has a tendency to do, I have no problem with it.

Doug

This show is of a rare yet distinguished breed; kid's shows that entertain the viewer. In a time when we offer trash like *Barney and Friends* to the children of our nation, and try to pass it off as "good clean programming", it's nice to know that someone like Doug is still around. The stories are fun, the music is cool, and, as cliché as it sounds, it's good clean programming for kids of all ages.

Liquid Television

MTV has always tried to launch the most promising young talents in the fields of music, comedy and film, so why not animation? This twisted, psychedelic program, featuring shorts ranging from goofy ("Dog Boy") to the excessively violent ("Aeon Flux"), is great stuff to watch quickly when flipping from channel to channel (which is what MTV is all about). Although some of the pieces tend to drag on a bit, the show serves it's purpose: providing talented, independent animators with a highly visible showcase for their work. After all, this is where *Beavis and Butthead* got their start.

So that's the state of cartoons and animation today. You may not like any of these shows (I don't particularly love each and every one), but you can't deny that, good or bad, the cartoon industry has once again made its mark on prime-time television.

And as the saying goes, "Th-th-th-that's all, folks!"

Old movies alive in modern culture

BY DANIEL G. RATNER
Managing Editor

"Old soldiers never die, they simply fade away."

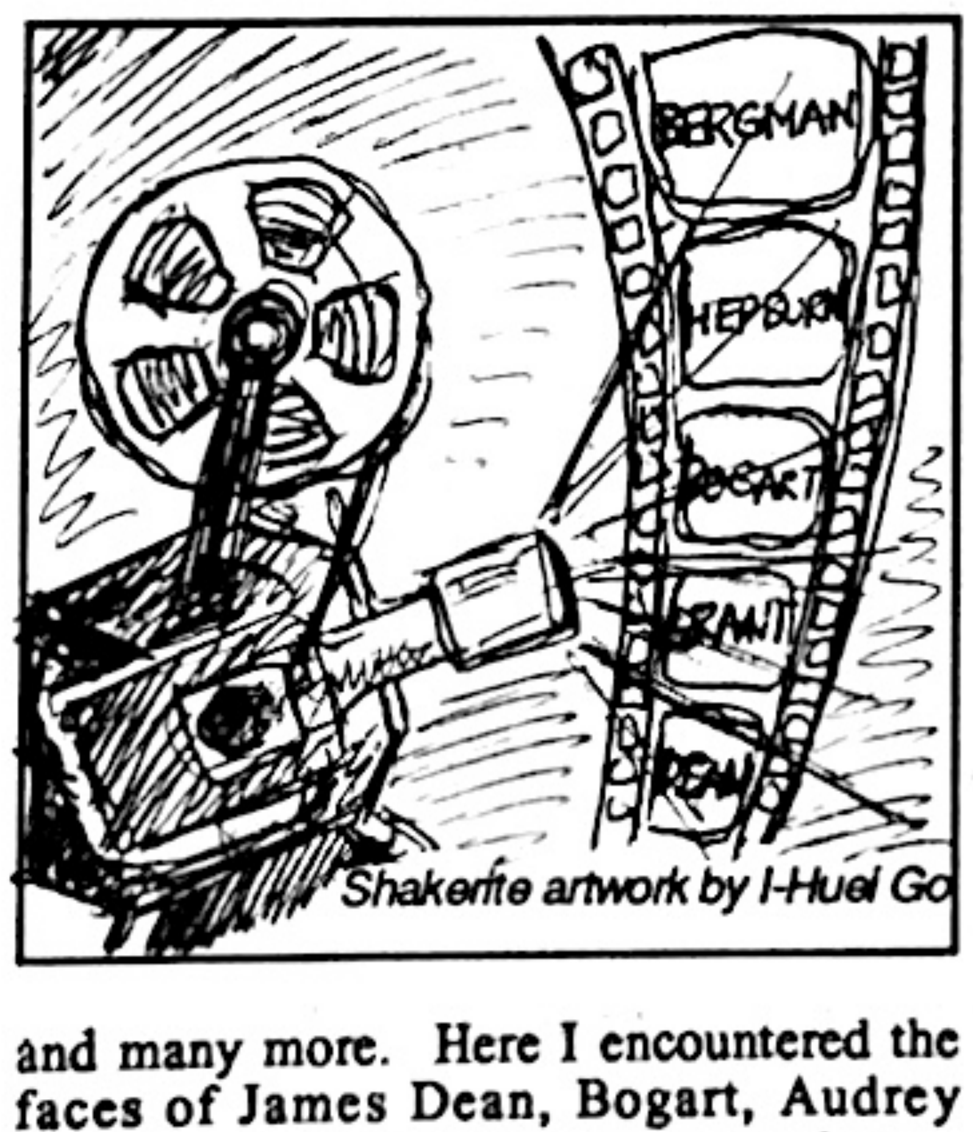
General Douglas MacArthur's quote about soldiers may have been true, but it's main point certainly does not pertain to movies. Not only do old movies never die, but certain ones have become immortalized in our culture. And from my recent experiences with some of these classics, I know why.

The first old movie (and I suppose that generally means a movie that is, or originally was, black and white) that I saw was *Some Like it Hot*, starring Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon and Marilyn Monroe. Even though I was in elementary school, I was still able to appreciate the fact that the stars of their day were every bit as popular and glamorous (perhaps even more so) than our stars of today. I found the same to be true in *North by Northwest*, starring Cray Grant.

Unfortunately, I haven't seen a wealth of older movies since then, until recently. It began last year, when I first saw *Casablanca*, starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. Not only did I really enjoy the movie, but also I was struck by the similarities between cinema of yesterday and today. Bogart was as slick as Tom Cruise ever was and Ingrid Bergman was as stunning as any actress of today's movie world.

However, I again came to a slight lapse in old movie watching at this point. But this year has been a sort of rebirth of old movies for me, and I'm beginning to think it must be fate. Or maybe just bizarre coincidences. But you tell me after hearing all of the events I've been through recently that have dealt with old movies.

It began about two months ago when I was doing a jig-saw puzzle with a friend of mine. It just so happened that the puzzle depicted posters of several old movies such as *Rebel Without a Cause, The Maltese Falcon, Treasure of the Sierra Madres,* and many more. Here I encountered the faces of James Dean, Bogart, Audrey Hepburn, and the list could go on and on.



Shakerite artwork by I-Huei Go

I decided to take a break from the grueling work of putting together a puzzle to watch a Woody Allen movie. I watched *Play it Again, Sam* without thinking of its significance. Of course, this movie is a take-off on Casablanca and an imitator Humphrey Bogart was used throughout the movie for emphasis. I won't ruin the ending of either *Casablanca* or *Play it Again, Sam* in case anyone is planning to see them, but only now can I see the incredible irony of the entire situation.

A week later I turned on the TV, and started flipping through the channels carelessly when I came to Showtime. There was something familiar about what was coming up on the screen...

Yes, it was *Some Like it Hot* and I just couldn't resist seeing it again. It was better the second time around, probably because I understood the humor much better. I still didn't think much of the irony of the recent events.

A few weeks later, I was talking with a friend about their "Film as Art" class, when he happened to bring up a few movies he had recently seen. Wouldn't you know that he had just seen *Treasure of the Sierra Madres*? He was, like me, impressed with Humphrey Bogart's acting, and felt that Bogart's performance in *Casablanca* didn't show why he is widely regarded as one of the greatest actors of all time.

At this point, I began to see the growing trend and to recognize why these movies have lasted so long. The fact is, the actors and actresses were just as exciting, just as good looking and just as talented as those of today, if not more.

Just as the Beatles set precedent in music, so did Ingrid Bergman, Humphrey Bogart, James Dean, Cary Grant, Audrey Hepburn and if I missed anyone really important, I'm sorry. Because of the precedents set and the great performances, these old movies are still going (Note: this is not an Energizer commercial - that was simply another coincidence). Sorry, MacArthur, but they won't be able to keep you company in obscurity.

Ideas to help you "Spring" into action over break

ANDY'S PICKS

BY ANDY ELLNER
Arts&Entertainment Editor

As I gaze out my window at snow covered fields my mind wanders to warmer thoughts. Thoughts of a time when green replaces white, and flowers in bloom take the place of icicles forming on the house. Though spring may not quite be in the air, it is most definitely on my mind.

And so as I sit here freezing in my chair I realize that maybe it's not so bad that I'm thinking about spring. Heck, by the time you guys read this thing there will be barely a week until the coveted and much anticipated spring break. (Inherent in this title is that it must actually be spring in order for break to happen. Any snow or cold weather is simply unexceptable.)

Finally I have bowed to popular demand. After a three month hiatus from making the obnoxious assertion that you want me to tell you what to do, I have returned in full force to brighten up your social life, this time over spring break.

Without further delay, here is a short list of suggestions that I have compiled for those of you, like me, who are lucky enough to stay in Cleveland for break.

Writers note: Cut me some slack here guys. There are no home Cavs games during this time, and the only concert is The Highwaymen boasting superstars like Willie Nelson. (You have to lose all respect for anybody who sells out to a Taco Bell commercial.)

Sleep: I assume that most of you, especially seniors, are rather burned out of school. It's probably getting just a little harder every morning for you to roll out of bed, into the shower, and off to school. So here is your chance to catch up. Go ahead, sleep 11, 12 hours a night. You'll probably be caught up just in time to start getting behind all over again.

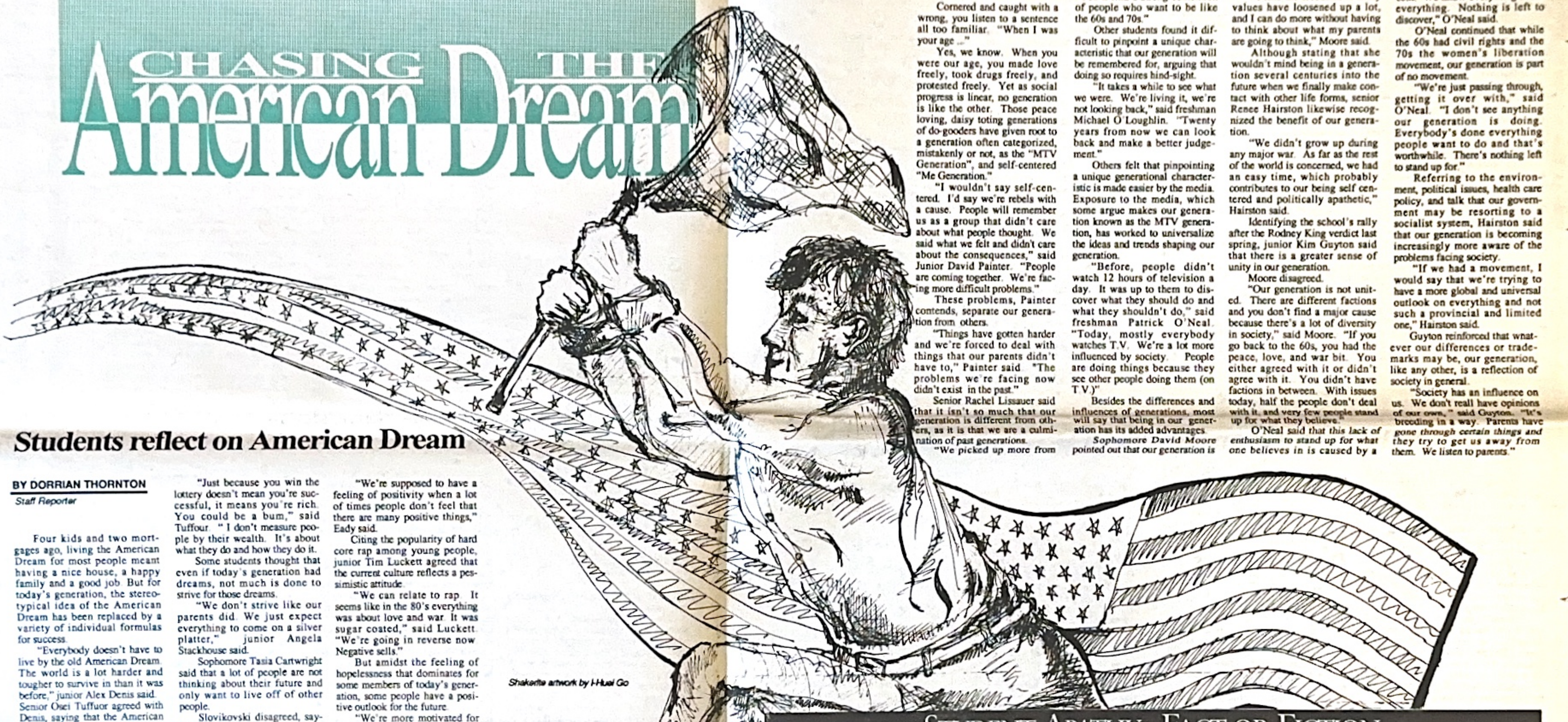
Seinfeld: It's *Seinfeld. Seinfeld.* It's a TV show. (Spoken in an extremely whiny New York accent.) I'm sure you're getting sick of reading the name in my articles so why don't you just watch the darned thing already. If you don't like it, to quote a good friend of mine, you have no sense of humor.

Baseball: I couldn't imagine a better way to spend a lazy spring afternoon then sitting in the stands watching America's favorite passtime. And lucky you, you can support your very own Shaker team while you're at it! Hey, I hear they have an incredible team this year, and that first baseman, it's worth going to the games just to watch him. (Am I biased? Heck yeah, I'm biased, that's why this is an opinion article.)

Go out to eat: Look, there just isn't much happening over break. Why not go out with some friends for lunch or dinner for a change of pace.

Taking a drive in the country: If you're getting desparate for things to do, as I most certainly am at this point, there is nothing so refreshing as a scenic drive in the country, when

CHASING THE American Dream



Shakerite artwork by I-Huei Go

Students reflect on American Dream

BY DORRIAN THORNTON
Staff Reporter

Four kids and two mortgages ago, living the American Dream for most people meant having a nice house, a happy family and a good job. But for today's generation, the stereotypical idea of the American Dream has been replaced by a variety of individual formulas for success.

"Everybody doesn't have to live by the old American Dream. The world is a lot harder and tougher to survive in than it was before," junior Alex Denis said. Senior Osei Tuffuor agreed with Denis, saying that the American Dream doesn't necessarily mean that there is only one way to be successful.

"Be the best you can at whatever you do. The American Dream stretches to fit every individual," Tuffuor said.

According to senior Bill Jones, making money is the current generation's American Dream.

"Money is success to me because money can buy you anything you want. Dreams can't get you paid," Jones said.

Math teacher Walter Slovikovski said that building a good family and a good set of friends would be a more appropriate goal for the current generation.

Tuffour agreed by saying that making money is not a good dream to work towards, as it is only a mask for true success.

"Just because you win the lottery doesn't mean you're successful, it means you're rich. You could be a bum," said Tuffour. " I don't measure people by their wealth. It's about what they do and how they do it.

Some students thought that even if today's generation had dreams, not much is done to strive for those dreams.

"We don't strive like our parents did. We just expect everything to come on a silver platter," junior Angela Stackhouse said.

Sophomore Tasia Cartwright said that a lot of people are not thinking about their future and only want to live off of other people.

Slovikovski disagreed, saying that today's generation is forced to work harder than previous generations in order to meet their dreams.

"I think our generations hold a lot of the same things as important, it just takes more work to achieve," said Slovikovski. "Today's generation will be remembered for working harder to get farther."

Some students said that a lack of positive moral is partly the reason why the current generation will have more difficulty attaining the American dream.

"Our generation's morals are negative. All the morals of our generation are material [People of the current generation) are after money and cars," senior Kamara Coaxum said.

Students said that they are pessimistic about their prospects of reaching the American dream.

"We're supposed to have a feeling of positivity when a lot of times people don't feel that there are many positive things," Eady said.

Citing the popularity of hard core rap among young people, junior Tim Luckett agreed that the current culture reflects a pessimistic attitude.

"We can relate to rap. It seems like in the 80's everything was about love and war. It was sugar coated," said Luckett. "We're going in reverse now. Negative sells."

But amidst the feeling of hopelessness that dominates for some members of today's generation, some people have a positive outlook for the future.

"We're more motivated for racial harmony. We won't allow bigotry," junior John Arnstine said.

Coaxum said that he was hopeful that the current generation can overcome racism.

"I hope that when my kids get older, everybody will be treated equally and nobody will be looked down upon," Coaxum said.

Senior Mike Adams believes that while our generation may have a messed up set of priorities, there are some redeeming values which make us unique.

"[Our generation] is more sexually conscious which is really good," Adams said.

Slovikovski predicts that today's generation will find the cures for cancer and AIDS.

"We're ready for that," he said.

Generation claims new identity

BY NANAR TABRIZI
Co-Centerpiece Editor

Cornered and caught with a wrong, you listen to a sentence all too familiar. "When I was your age ..."

Yes, we know. When you were our age, you made love freely, took drugs freely, and protested freely. Yet as social progress is linear, no generation is like the other. Those peace loving, daisy toting generations of do-gooders have given root to a generation often categorized, mistakenly or not, as the "MTV Generation", and self-centered "Me Generation."

"I wouldn't say self-centered. I'd say we're rebels with a cause. People will remember us as a group that didn't care about what people thought. We said what we felt and didn't care about the consequences," said Junior David Painter. "People are coming together. We're facing more difficult problems."

These problems, Painter contends, separate our generation from others.

"Things have gotten harder and we're forced to deal with things that our parents didn't have to," Painter said. "The problems we're facing now didn't exist in the past."

Senior Rachel Lissauer said that it isn't so much that our generation is different from others, as it is that we are a culmination of past generations.

"We picked up more from past generations instead of breaking from them," said sophomore David Moore. "You'll find a strong contention of people who want to be like the 60s and 70s."

Other students found it difficult to pinpoint a unique characteristic that our generation will be remembered for, arguing that doing so requires hind-sight.

"It takes a while to see what we were. We're living it, we're not looking back," said freshman Michael O'Loughlin. "Twenty years from now we can look back and make a better judgement."

Others felt that pinpointing a unique generational characteristic is made easier by the media. Exposure to the media, which some argue makes our generation known as the MTV generation, has worked to universalize the ideas and trends shaping our generation.

"Before, people didn't watch 12 hours of television a day. It was up to them to discover what they should do and what they shouldn't do," said freshman Patrick O'Neal. "Today, mostly everybody watches T.V. We're a lot more influenced by society. People are doing things because they see other people doing them (on T.V.)"

Besides the differences and influences of generations, most will say that being in our generation has its added advantages.

Sophomore David Moore pointed out that our generation is the first generation who had free speech and never had to work for it.

"I like the freedom. Family values have loosened up a lot, and I can do more without having to think about what my parents are going to think," Moore said.

Although stating that she wouldn't mind being in a generation several centuries into the future when we finally make contact with other life forms, senior Renee Hairston likewise recognized the benefit of our generation.

"We didn't grow up during any major war. As far as the rest of the world is concerned, we had an easy time, which probably contributes to our being self centered and politically apathetic," Hairston said.

Identifying the school's rally after the Rodney King verdict last spring, junior Kim Guyton said that there is a greater sense of unity in our generation.

Moore disagreed.

"Our generation is not united. There are different factions and you don't find a major cause because there's a lot of diversity in society," said Moore. "If you go back to the 60s, you had the peace, love, and war bit. You either agreed with it or didn't agree with it. You didn't have factions in between. With issues today, half the people don't deal with it, and very few people stand up for what they believe."

O'Neal said that *this lack of enthusiasm to stand up for what one believes in is caused by a* lack of "new horizons" to be staked.

"Nothing seems to be innocent. We know everything about everything. Nothing is left to discover," O'Neal said.

O'Neal continued that while the 60s had civil rights and the 70s the women's liberation movement, our generation is part of no movement.

"We're just passing through, getting it over with," said O'Neal. "I don't see anything our generation is doing. Everybody's done everything people want to do and that's worthwhile. There's nothing left to stand up for."

Referring to the environment, political issues, health care policy, and talk that our government may be resorting to a socialist system, Hairston said that our generation is becoming increasingly more aware of the problems facing society.

"If we had a movement, I would say that we're trying to have a more global and universal outlook on everything and not such a provincial and limited one," Hairston said.

Guyton reinforced that whatever our differences or trademarks may be, our generation, like any other, is a reflection of society in general.

"Society has an influence on us. We don't reall have opinions of our own," said Guyton. "It's breeding in a way. Parents have *gone through certain things and they try to get us away from* them. We listen to parents."

STUDENT APATHY: FACT OR FICTION

The current generation is often said to be politically and globally unaware. In an attempt to cement this belief as either myth or truth, the Shakerite has conducted a survey of approximately 150 students.

◆ 30% of those surveyed knew that Warren Christopher was the newly appointed Secretary of State.

◆ 79% knew that Tokyo was the capital of Japan.

◆ 81% identified Patricia Mearns as the mayor of Shaker Heights.

◆ 72% of the students surveyed correctly said that the nations of Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina were former provinces in the country of Yugoslovia.

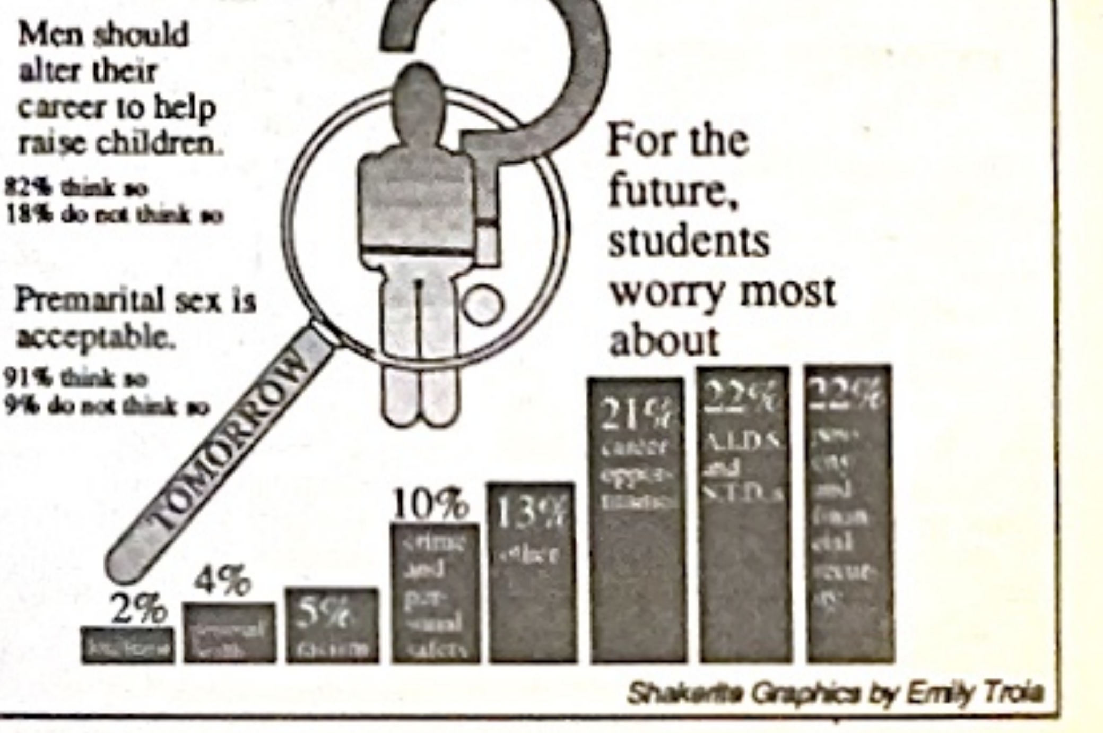
◆ 77% knew that Albany was the capital New York.

◆ 91% correctly identified Bill Clinton as the former governor of Arkansas.

◆ 93% of the students knew that the World Trade Center was recently bombed by terrorists.

Men should alter their career to help raise children.
82% think so
18% do not think so

Premarital sex is acceptable.
91% think so
9% do not think so



Shakerite Graphics by Emily Troia

Films feature action, romance

Dance film delves into Nazi terror

QUICK FLICKS

BY COURTNEY MASINI
Staff Reporter

When I walked into the theater, I was expecting a movie full of song and dance, unaware of the powerful message *Swing Kids* would deliver.

It is the story of two best friends and how they are separated by the Nazi movement before WWII. In the 1930's there was a movement of kids in Germany who listened to American swing music. They liked all things British and American, and they lived to dance. Peter, (Robert Sean Leonard) and Thomas, (Christian Bale), hang out at clubs that play swing music, constantly dodging the Nazis who outlawed the music because many of the performers were black and Jewish.

When Peter is caught stealing a radio, his mother calls a friend of hers who is in the Gestapo. In return for helping him out of jail, Peter is forced to join the Hitler Youth. Thomas also joins so that they can be together. The two plan on having the best of two worlds, keeping the Nazi's off their back by being in the youth corps by day and being swing kids by night.

During the course of the movie, Peter becomes aware of the Nazi's attrocities. He starts to rebel and discovers that his father, who had been killed six years earlier by the Nazis, was a Jewish sympathizer. Peter continues to attend the secret swing clubs where he can dance to the music he loves. Thomas, however, is drawn deep into the trap of the Nazis, and it comes down to a face-off between the two at the end of the movie.

Although from the previews this movie looks like a light musical, it is not. It actually does not have all that much music and dancing, and those scenes are not the focus of the movie. The movie shows what it was like to be a Nazi and how it deformed the way members of the party thought. Their concept of right and wrong was skewed to the point that they-turned in members of their own family for speaking against Hitler.

The movie also depicts the struggle of someone who disagrees with the Nazis, but cannot speak out for fear of putting his family in danger.

The acting in this movie was excellent. I was on the edge of my seat the whole time, not only in suspense, but in horror. The actions of the Nazis were so inhumane that it was scary to realize that these things really happened. I highly recommend this movie. It goes much deeper than it appears to at first glance.

Slater, Tomei star in teen melodrama

BY MARGARET SAWYER
Staff Reporter

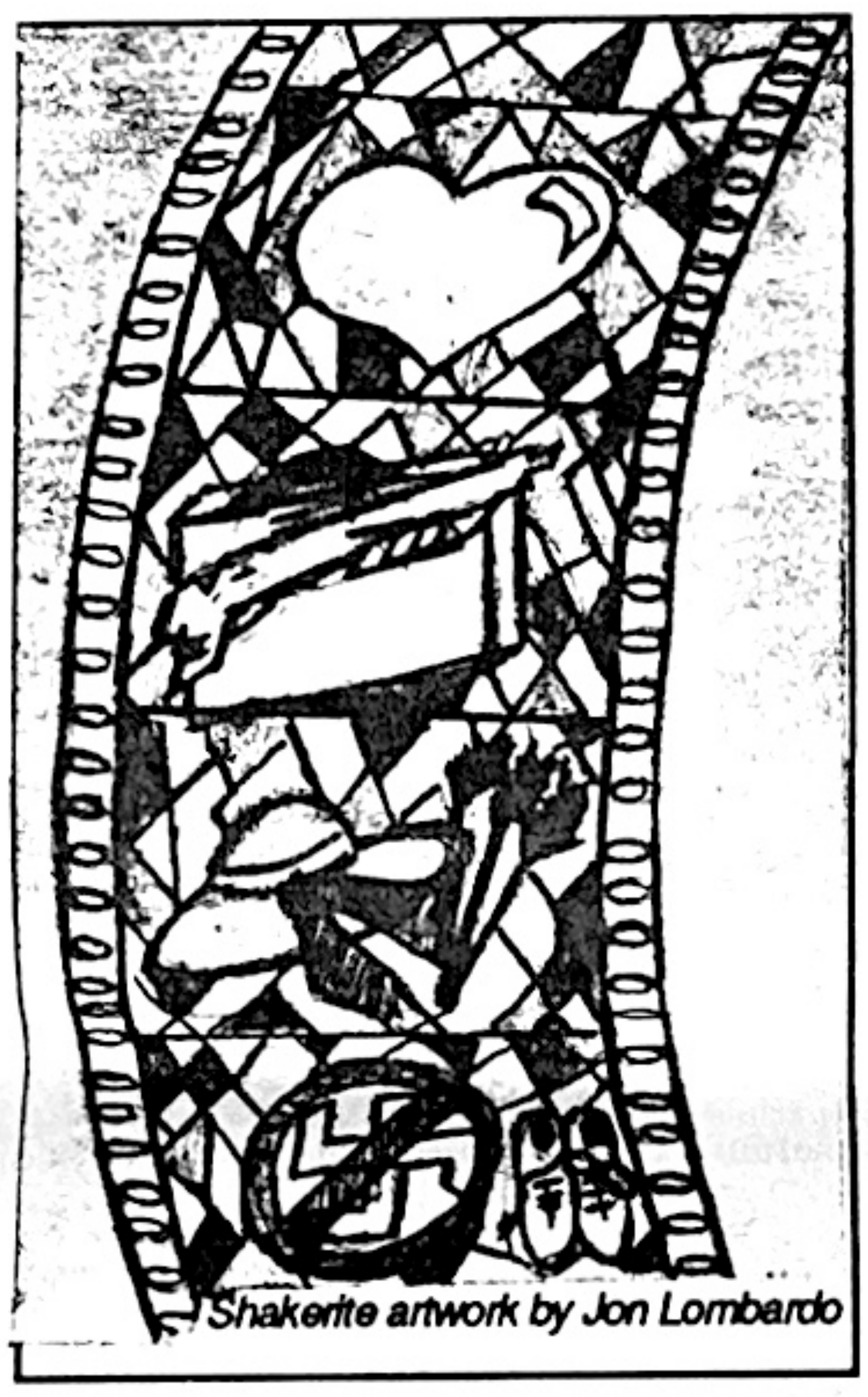
It all began in a cheap looking diner, Jim's Restaurant and Bakery. The heroine of Untamed Hearts, Caroline (Marisa Tomei), has just been dumped by her latest boyfriend and is understandably depressed. Adam (Christian Slater), the busboy who had fallen in love with Caroline is too shy to tell her how he feels. He had a very isolated childhood due to a serious heart condition and never learned to relate to other people.

When Adam saves Caroline's life she discovers how much he cares about her and begins to see him in a new light. They fall in love and *Untamed Hearts* records their relationship.

The movie was one of the better ones I've seen, but it did have its faults. Tormei's portrayal of Caroline is shaky. At times she's very believable as a young love but sometimes she comes off as a flaky teenager. Also, the movie was predictable.

Despite these faults, I loved Untamed Hearts. It was refreshing to see such a pure story in which the good guys get what they deserve and the bad guys don't hurt them. The movie was special because it showed how good people could be to each other.

I highly recommend this movie, but it isn't right for everyone. If you're one of those people that goes to the cinema to see action-packed violent adventure movies, than *Untamed Hearts* is not for you, but if you want to laugh and cry and fall in love with the characters, I definitely recommend it.


Shakerite artwork by Jon Lombardo

Styles of Murray, De Niro conflict

BY AMY LIPTON
Staff Reporter

The new film *Mad Dog and Glory* boasts the blockbuster duo of Bill Murray and Robert DeNiro. And though the individual names themselves may draw interest, their performances together in this movie are less than wonderful.

When Wayne "Mad Dog" Dobie (DeNiro), a police officer, stops in at a drug store near the scene of a crime, he ends up saving the life of Frank Milo (Murray) who happens to be one of Chicago's top mobsters. The plot thickens when, in gratitude, Frank sends Mad Dog a woman named Glory (Uma Thurmond) as a gift for a week.

Mad Dog, who doesn't like the idea at all, tries to send her home, but discovers that she is doing this in order to pay off a debt her brother owes to Frank. After the week is over, Mad Dog realizes that he is in love with Glory and does not want Frank to take her back. Frank no longer seems to be a very "friendly" guy.

It's not really that the acting was so bad in Mad Dog and Glory; in fact it was very good. Rather, it was the roles that Murray and DeNiro were cast in that caused problems. How often do we see Murray playing not only a serious, but a mean character? And how often do we see DeNiro making love to a beautiful model? It just didn't work. The movie is worth seeing, but my advice is to wait until it comes out on video.

Foster, Gere spark romance

BY AMY LIPTON
Staff Reporter

Romance has reentered modern cinema in the new film Sommersby.

After fighting in the Civil War for six years, Jack Sommersby (Richard Gere) returns home to a wife and town that had long since assumed his death. Once an abusive husband, he is now a kind and loving man. His wife, Laurel (Jodie Foster) who was ready to remarry if he did not return within a year, now finds herself more in love with him then ever. With Sommersby's help the people begin to rebuild the war-struck town.

The couple's lives are beginning to get back in order, when suspicions about Sommersby's true identity arise. The town's shoe maker realizes his shoe size has shrunk two sizes, he doesn't remember his best friend and his temperament has made a remarkable change. Sommersby is accused of murder and sent to trial, where his wife tries to save him by accusing him of not really being her husband.

Sommersby is your typical tear-jerking love story. It's what most guys would call a "girl's movie," and I'd have to agree. I thought it was excellent. Putting Gere and Foster together was a brilliant move on the part of the casting director. This movie is a must for all of the females in the school that like love stories. Good luck trying to get your boyfriends to go. I gave up.

Film enacts urban nightmare

BY JEFF EPSTEIN
Opinion Editor

You're feeling just a little bit angry at the world. Stuck in a traffic jam, the heat begins to get to you so you get out of your car and begin walking to where you are going. You encounter the Korean owner of a small convenient store who won't give you change for the pay phone. What should you do next? Bash his store up with a baseball bat, buy a Coke and leave, naturally.

Such is the basis for *Falling Down*, the story of an ex-defense worker (Michael Douglas) who gets laid off and decides to take out his anger on the world. This is not a happy story, but it is an interesting commentary on modern society. The plot moves along at a pretty fast and flawless pace, with the exception of the fact that all of Douglas' victims are evil characters, such as a racist Nazi sympathizer and some muggers who are gang members.

After seeing *Falling Down*, part of me felt like I was ready to stand up to the world and blow up those who annoyed me with a rocket launcher, but then my reason got the best of me and I realized it was just a movie.

RATINGS	○○○○○ Really Good ○ Really Bad
Swing Kids	○○○○
Untamed Hearts	○○○
Mad Dog and Glory	○○
Sommersby	○○○
Falling Down	○○○

Choir, band compete in area

SPOTLIGHT

BY COURTNEY MASINI
Staff Reporter

Shaker music groups have been busy during the last month preparing for and performing in area competitions and concerts. The A Cappella Mixed Choir sang at the Lake Erie Choral Festival on March 18, while the bands competed in the district tournament March 12 and 13.

The choir spent the afternoon on March 18 rehearsing with quest conductor Dr. Peter Jarjisian, Director of Choral Activities at Ohio State University, on Haydn's "Mass" with six other area schools.

The festival, hosted last year by Shaker, was held at Parma Senior High School. After rehearsing with the 450 member, multi-school choir, a concert was held at 7:30 p.m. Each school sang three pre-rehearsed songs. The concert ended with the performance of Haydn's "Mass".

Director Ron Morgan said that the festival is beneficial to the choir. "It helps them to hear other high school choirs and compare to see what they do well and what we do well," Morgan said.

The bands competed at the district level at Mentor Memorial Junior High School.

The Concert Band competed in Class C, and played "Covington Square", "Coast Guard March" and the "Jackson Lake Overture".

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble competed in Class A and played "Amporito Roca", "Tancredi Overture" and "Century Tower Overture".

The Wind Ensemble received superior ratings from all three judges, qualifying them for state competition on April 23.

Sophomore Dawn Santabarbara is looking forward to states.

"We're excited about states because we worked hard to get there," Santabarbara said.

The bands did not compete last year because of their trip to England.

New stages provides showcase for innovative theatre

BY DANIEL G. RATNER
Managing Editor

The Theatre Department opened its production of New Stages XI last night at the Stage 3 theater. There will be four more performances, two tonight and two on Saturday night at 7:00 and 9:15 P.M.

The production features five pieces, written, directed and performed by students. Several students were excited about the opportunity to be a part of New Stages.

"The great thing about New Stages is that it's all students," said junior Sarah Kleinman. "It gives so many people a chance to take on the role of something other than the actor."

The plays include *Foul Deeds*, written by Shaker graduate Jon Leiken, will be directed by senior Carter Bays. *Not an Actress* was written by another graduate, Julie Kleinman, and will be directed by senior Sarah Cohen.

Bays has also written two of the plays being performed: *Land*, directed by junior Margi Herwald, and *Seas of Coffee*, directed by senior Kim Butler.

The fifth work, entitled *Threads*, consists of various pieces, written by Robert Griffin, and seniors Andy Toomajian and Olga Chwascinska. Senior Clay Weiner is the director.

Group assists gay, lesbian youth

No one said growing up is simple. But for teenagers with a lesbian or gay sexual orientation, life's challenges take on new dimensions. That is why the Lesbian/Gay Community Center of Greater Cleveland offers a support group especially for teens called PRYSM. The group meets every Saturday from noon to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 781-6736, 7-10 p.m. evenings.

prysm
PRESENCE AND RESPECT FOR YOUTH IN THE SEXUAL MINORITY

- ☛ Smoking is the cause of one sixth of the deaths in the U.S.
- ☛ Smoking increases the heart rate by as much as 33 beats per minute.
- ☛ Two thirds of smokers start smoking before the age of 18.
- ☛ 60% of females smokers began before they were 13.
- ☛ 1.7 million girls (13%) between the ages of 13 and 17 smoke.
- ☛ 1.8 million boys (11%) between the ages of 13 and17 smoke.
- ☛ *Second-hand smoke causes* 53,000 deaths annually.
- ☛ 50% of the world's children live with a smoker.
- ☛ Second-hand smoke, like asbestos, benzene and mainstream smoke, is labeled a Class A carcinogen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- ☛ Women who smoke and take birth control pills are 10 times more likely to suffer a heart attack than women who do neither.
- ☛ Cigarettes kill 390,000 people every year.
- ☛ 3,000 teens start smoking every day, more than 1,000,000 each year.
- ☛ Smokers' lifetime medical bills average $20,000 more than non-smokers'.

CLEARING THE AIR

Smoking puts everyone's health at risk

BY DONALD HILL
Staff Reporter

Got a light? Chances are, the person sitting next to you does.

Three thousand teenagers become smokers every day–that is over one million a year, according to the American Cancer Society, .

Even with the American Cancer Society's warnings of smoking-related health problems such as cancer of the mouth, larynx, esophagus, bladder, kidneys, pancreas, stomach and cervix, many high school students continue to puff away.

Senior Ellen Donald said she has been smoking cigarettes since eighth grade. She said she started at a friend's house one day because of boredom.

"We decided to steal a couple of her parents' cigarettes and try smoking. I liked it," she said.

Donald said she believes that if a parent smokes, then it is more likely for the child to pick up the habit.

School Nurse Evelyn Wisham said she agrees, pointing to a sign on her wall reading, "Kids do what they see."

Peer pressure influenced junior Clare Cogan's decision to start smoking about a year ago.

"I guess [I continue to smoke] because all my friends do and because I like it, and because my boyfriend now does," Cogan said.

Wisham said she is concerned with the problem of teenagers who smoke, as well as the risks faced when non-smoking students are exposed to second-hand smoke. Many students with respiratory problems such as asthma develop or exacerbate those conditions because of exposure to second-hand smoke, she said.

Wisham said she gave up her own nicotine habit 11 years ago when her children hid her cigarettes and complained of her smoking.

Students who are learning the facts about the dangers of smoking said they are encouraging friends and family members to stop.

"My dad smokes and my mother smokes when she is frustrated. I don't like it. I try to get them to stop. It could cause them both to die, because cancer runs in our family," junior Cheri Caldwell said.

Several non-smoking students complained about the risks they face from inhaling second-hand smoke.

"In a crowded restaurant where smoking is allowed, in one sitting you can breathe up to six times the amount of smoke that you would breathe on a big city street during rush hour," senior Davidione Pearl said.

While several smokers argued that smoking is a personal choice and therefore they should be allowed to smoke when and where they want, junior Andrea Johnson said that choice needs special consideration.

"Although smoking is a personal choice, when people smoke in public it becomes something that affects others and is not their choice," Johnson said. "[Smoking] should be allowed in certain places, but [ones] clearly marked 'Smoking.'"

Smoking also creates disciplinary problems for students. According to the high school's behaviorial handbook, students are not permitted to smoke on school grounds during, immediately before or after school or at any time a group is using the school. Failure to meet this policy, according to the handbook, could lead to suspension or expulsion.

"Kicking people out of school because of smoking won't help the school's problem," senior Caitlin Roberts, a smoker, said. "It's not getting to the heart of the issue."

The school's policy is even more ineffective, Wisham said, because it singles out students and prohibits them from smoking, while permitting faculty members to participate in the same behavior.

"It seems a little hypocritical to criticize students for smoking and then provide designated places for faculty members to smoke," Wisham said.

Whatever the policy may be, students said they continue to smoke in and around school, even though they wish they could stop. For senior Julie Clutter, who has smoked for the past two years, her attempts to kick the habit have been frustrating at most.

"I've tried to quit a couple of times, but it's harder than you think," Clutter said, adding that the longest she has stayed off of cigarettes was one day. "A lot of [the problem] is psychological addiction."

Senior Jason Porter summed up the frustration of trying to kick his unhealthy habit.

"[Smoking] is like a crutch," Porter said.

Shakerite artwork by Ledel Johnson
Jonas Green contributed to this article

- ☛ Out of every 100 smokers, one will be murdered and two will be killed in car accidents, yet 25 will die from diseases caused by smoking.
- ☛ Certain brands of chewing tobacco and snuff contain 20,000 times the amount of carcinogens permitted in products such as bacon, beer and baby bottle nipples.
- ☛ Second-hand smoke contains double the tar and nicotine content, five times the amount of *carbon dioxide and 50 times the ammonia of mainstream smoke.*
- ☛ Smokers spend an average 16% more time sick in bed than non-smokers.
- ☛ For more information, contact the American Cancer Society at (800) 422-6237, or the American Lung Association, (216) 781-5656.

Source: American Cancer Society and American Lung Association

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS

Myth: Smoking occasionally is not harmful.
Fact: Nicotine and tar, two poisonous drugs found in cigarettes, are harmful in any dosage.

Myth: Smokeless tobaccos are not as bad as cigarettes.
Fact: All tobacco products contain nicotine. Chewing tobacco and snuff contain 10 times more carcinogens per serving than cigarettes.

Myth: Menthol cigarettes are safer than other types.
Fact: Menthol cigarettes are probably more dangerous than other types. The cool feeling that menthol gives smokers allows them to hold the smoke in their lungs for a longer period of exposure.

Myth: If a person quits smoking at a relatively young age, full recovery of healthy lungs is still possible.
Fact: Although an ex-smoker has decreased health risks, even temporary smoking has permanent effects.

Myth: Smoking harms only the lungs.
Fact: 115,000 deaths occur annually in the U.S. from heart diseases caused by smoking. Chronic bronchitis, emphysema, increased blood pressure, higher cholesterol level and cancer of the mouth, wind pipe, voice box, stomach, bladder, kidney, pancreas and cervix are just some of the risks involved.

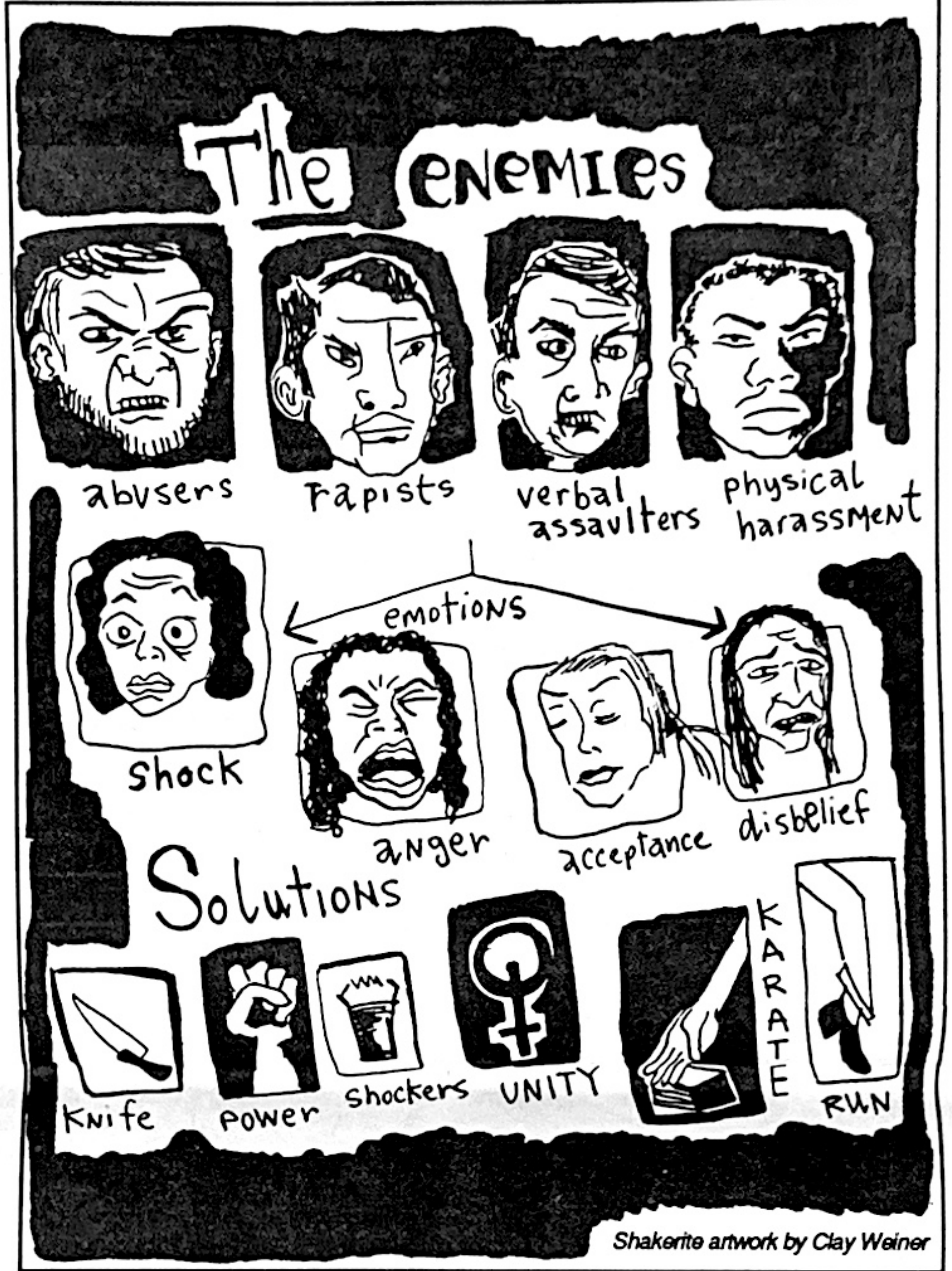
Source: American Cancer Society and American Lung Association
Information compiled by Jonas Green

Thinking Twice

From tae kwon do to mace, self defense in the 90s

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Staff Reporter



Shakerite artwork by Clay Weiner

You are walking along a downtown street alone in broad daylight. You are not worried about being attacked or raped. After all, those things never happen to you. You are young and invincible.

Or are you?

Statistics say no.

A rape occurs every six minutes in this country, an aggravated assault, every 35 seconds. One out of every five people will be the victim of an assault. One out of every 12 women will be the victim of a rape or attempted rape.

Personal safety experts say you can learn to protect yourself.

"The average person has no idea what it is really like to fight for his life. He doesn't know the things a perpetrator would do. Learning self defense is a good idea," health education teacher Hubert McIntyre said.

One option is a traditional self defense course, such as judo, karate or tae kwon do. These martial arts combine self defense and self discipline to make a person more secure both mentally and physically in case of an attack, according to James Cahn, Shaker Heights tae kwon do instructor and fifth degree black belt.

"Could I defend myself if Michael Dean Perry grabbed me by the throat? Very few people could say that. But [knowing tae kwon do] dramatically increases the opportunity for success," Cahn said.

Several tae kwon do students agree with this view.

"In extreme situations, like if the person has a weapon, I might not be able to defend myself, but otherwise I definitely could," sophomore Brooke Berens, a black belt in tae kwon do, said.

McIntyre finds some fault in traditional martial arts as self defense on the street.

"Martial arts are not just used for self defense. In a real fight, there is no referee," he said.

Some experts also do not agree that martial arts is the answer. They say it is too choreographed and does not teach the student techniques to fight off an attack if knocked over on their backs. This argument led to the development of special self-defense courses designed especially for the street, such as Model Mugging.

These courses make use of weapons such as fingernails, teeth, and traditional kicking and punching for retaliation in ways that martial arts scorns such as kicks to the groin and scratches to the eyes of the assailant. It also stresses non-combat maneuvers such as "voice-boxing," allowing the victim to try calm, firm statements or screaming to prevent an attack.

Cahn does not necessarily advocate such programs.

"The problem with many of these programs is that they create more problems than they solve. They meet once a week, for eight weeks or so, and then the student is presented with a certificate. Compare that to piano lessons in that same time. Eight weeks does not make a pianist," Cahn said.

Cahn does agree that learning some type of self defense training is a good idea to protect yourself. But if you cannot, here are a few good tips from Model Mugging to avoid an attack:

✓Always walk in pairs. This is true for males and females. Males are assaulted twice as often as females.

✓Never walk with your eyes down.

✓Never flash money or credit cards in public.

✓Walk confidently.

✓When you go to the mall, park close to the entrance and near to a light.

✓Never carry a purse with a shoulder strap and a handle. These are easier to pick-pocket.

Avoiding a rape requires additional measures, according to the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center. They stress remaining in control of one's actions by staying sober and alert at all times; knowing one's dates before going out privately; and using assertive communication along with the measures to avoid assault of other kinds.

The Cleveland Rape Crisis Center encourages both men and women to keep these stratagies in mind, because men are susceptible to rape as well as women.

In case of a rape attempt, the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center suggests the following actions:

✓Stay calm and appraise the situation quickly and carefully.

✓Try to escape. Two of the most effective methods are yelling and running.

✓Resist immediately. If resisting is possible, do so quickly and escape.

✓If escape is not possible, take notes to report to the police later.

You are walking along a downtown street alone in broad daylight. You are not worried about being attacked or raped.

You know how to defend yourself.

Alcohol, jealousy tied into high school security

BY AMY LIPTON

Staff Reporter

Fighting.

Alcohol.

Shaker.

With more security guards patrolling the hallways and continued crack-downs by the administration and police on drinking at parties and school activities, students are questioning how related those subjects have become.

Junior Jorey Friedman said that she does not think that there is a problem with violence in the high school.

"We have our typical fights, but nothing out of the ordinary. I think our school is pretty safe. There is a security guard every time you turn around," Friedman said.

Junior Michelle Watts said that school safety is improving with more security guards and better methods of dealing with problems.

"After they hired more security officers, the misbehaving of students has decreased rapidly. This is definitely a good thing. I personally have never felt at risk here, and I've never found the environment threatening in any way," Watts said.

However, junior Brad Karfeld said that he sometimes feels unsafe in the building after school.

"I feel uncomfortable a lot of time when there are guys who are bigger than me, like in the halls after school," Karfeld said.

Tim Reinhard, sergeant in charge of juvenile bureau for the Police Department, said that Shaker is different from other school districts because it is "one of the only schools that the police department works so closely with."

Reinhard meets daily with Mike Klima, school district safety coordinator, not only to discuss specific problems, but also to stay aware of what is going on in the school.

The high school tries to prevent problems with students from occurring by talking to students that are having problems, Assistant Principal Richard Vlah said. Most problems do not start in school, he said, but in the community and in homes.

Watts said that some students have a problem with alcohol, but that the use of alcohol causes more problems outside of school than in school.

"Many people in this school have problems with their alcohol intake. The people that I know that do this don't do it in school, so I can't relate it to a 'school problem'," Watts said.

Though Vlah admitted that there have been alcohol-related fights and other acts of violence, he maintained that they were isolated incidents.

"[The security guards and administrators] try to provide a good environment for education to take place. That doesn't mean there are not kids that don't get into drugs and alcohol," Vlah said.

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Living the dream

One student shares his vision of justice, harmony through action and song

BY REBECCA DAVIS

Feature Editor

Senior Larry Braddell is a leader with a vision.

But he'd be the last person to tell you that.

Founder of the former Sons of Africa, a group developed to promote African-American culture that never attained school sanctioning, and prominent member of the African American Culture Association (AACA), an outgrowth of SOA, Braddell carries his vision with him in all he does. From helping to organize the walk-out last May to protest the state verdict in the Rodney King trial, to performing in an a capella singing group and another group for "socially conscious" rap, Braddell's presence is felt throughout the school.

"I'm just doing what everybody should be doing," Braddell said humbly, shrugging off the suggestion that he might be a school leader. "I'm just taking an interest in [people's] well being and in the well being of their environment."

Leadership seems to come naturally to this deep voice, soft eyed thinker, who admits that one of his greatest faults is his tendency to think too much.

"I let my environment, my surroundings, upset me sometimes. I think about them all the time. I've got problems on my mind. It's good to be concerned, but maybe I'm too concerned," he explained.

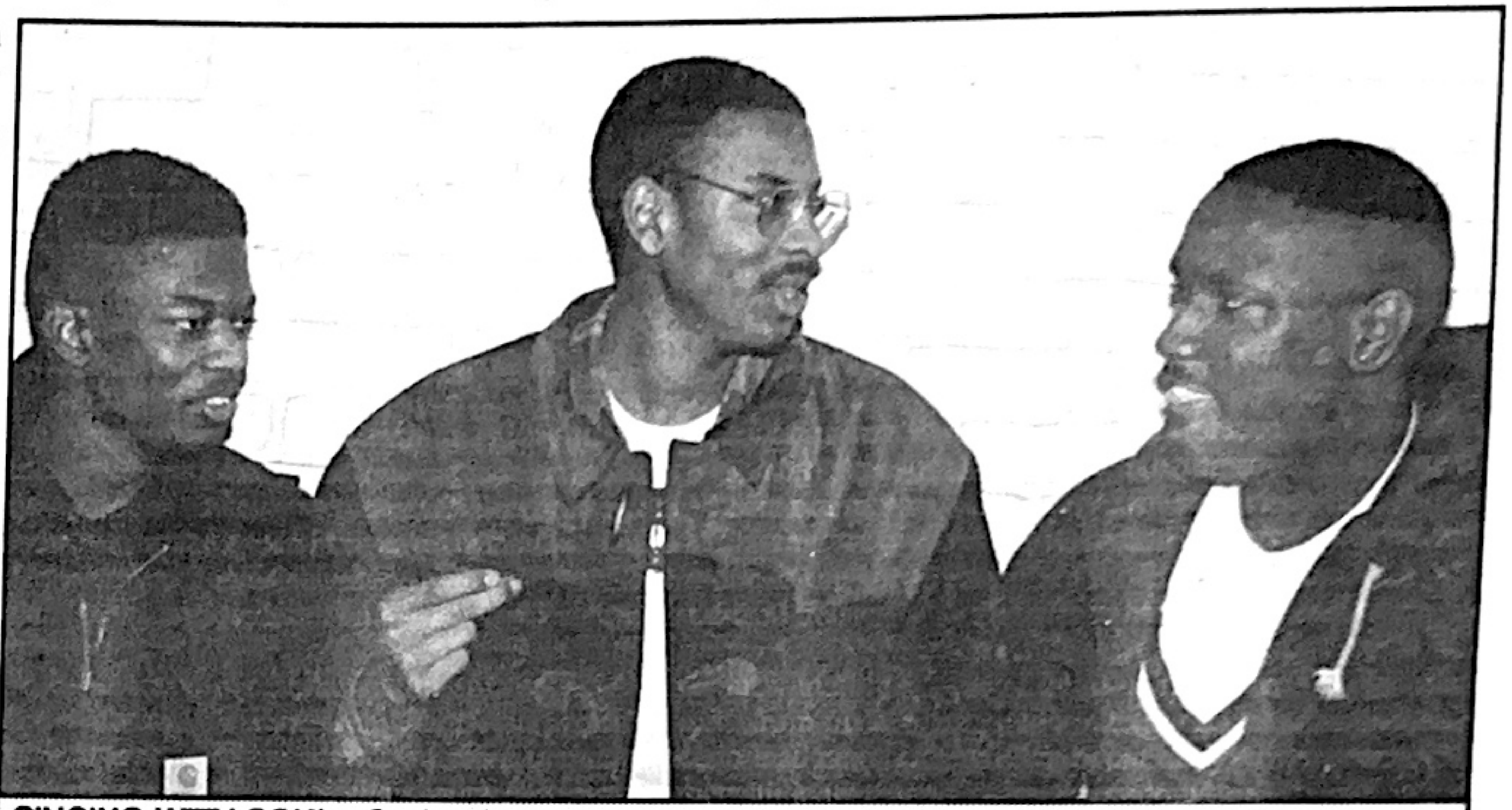
Of course, Braddell has thought through reasons why others have not chosen social activism as he has.

> *If you see something wrong, if you see an injustice, you speak out... Many people aren't willing or ready to accept the responsibility that comes along with speaking out against social injustice.'*
>
> *–Senior Larry Braddell*

"It seems so natural. If you see something wrong, if you see an injustice, you speak out, but understand that in speaking out you've got to accept responsibility for what you've said. Many people aren't willing or ready to accept the responsibility that comes along with speaking out against social injustice," Braddell said.

Social justice and civil liberty are among Braddell's greatest concerns, he said, leading him to read book upon book about black men who have pursued them.

"We weren't put here to have conflicts. We were put here to work together. [People] have differences, yes, but we have to understand that we do have differences and work toward a common ground. That's what it'll take for people to come around and see each other as equals," he said.



SINGING WITH SOUL: Seniors Larry Braddell, Tommy Reeves and York Haqq, members of the a capella group Rhapsody, sing in a hallway. Braddell also belongs to Endangered Species, a group that performs what Braddell calls "socially conscious rap."

Shakerite photo by Jason Hamilton

Beyond this idealism, Braddell gave more concrete solutions to the problems of racism and polarization he said he encounters in the high school.

"[The high school is] divided into different cliques. We're divided into different socio-economic groupings. And [the student body] wonders why we don't have any school spirit," Braddell said sarcastically.

"If we had some sort of forum where all the people from these different backgrounds could get together and give their viewpoints and discuss things," he continued, "then maybe we could move towards being equal," Braddell said.

One individual Braddell said has encouraged him to pursue these goals of high school integration is Principal Jack Rumbaugh.

"Dr. Rumbaugh, as far as in the high school, has been my mentor, in that he actually listens to my problems. So he's like a principal and a counselor and a father figure all rolled into one," Braddell said.

Braddell's heros are invariably black men of courage and dignity, such as performer Paul Robeson, who broke ground in the entertainment industry by insisting on playing leading roles such as Othello at a time when most parts reserved for blacks were minor. Robeson, Braddell said, sets an example for today's black youth because he was an athlete and a lawyer in addition to being an entertainer.

Ambition also seems to factor into Braddell's vision of the future. Although he said he has been accepted to the Wilberforce University and is waiting to hear from three other schools, he said his singing group, Rhapsody, wants to be signed on to a record label, tour and release an album. Rhapsody's musicians include seniors Tommy Reeves, York Haqq and Philip Cummings.

> *We weren't put here to have conflicts. We were put here to work together. We have differences, yes, but we have to understand that we do have differences and work toward a common ground."*

Braddell also said his awareness of the danger facing today's young black men prompted the title for his rap group, Endangered Species, which also features Reeves and former Shaker student Robert Freeman.

When he graduates in June, Braddell said the greatest challenge he will face is staying alive.

"It think it's the biggest challenge not knowing what lies ahead of me in the street, as I walk down the street every day. Shaker's like a shelter. We're sheltered from all the stuff that goes on in the real world," he said.

In spite of the obstacles and discrimination Braddell said he expects to encounter along his road to either a musical career or a degree in law or politics, he refuses to be beat by the system.

"Being black, you'll be deprived from some opportunities that some of your brothers of a lighter hue will get," he said. "But like I said, if there's not a way out, then we have to make our own way. We need to, as young African-American males, African-American people, we need to stop asking for jobs and start creating our own."

For all his articulateness and well-though out ideas, Braddell shied away from admitting he is a leader.

"I don't like being out in the limelight sometimes. When I'm performing, that's a different thing, because performing is like speaking, speaking how I feel," he said.

Whatever he labels himself, his speaking abilities and leadership involvement, there is no denying that Braddell has something to tell the world. And he's not afraid to stand up and say it either.

"We're all human. And basically, that's the only ground that we all, in the whole world, have," he said. "And we need to act like it."

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TOURNAMENT TIME

Tournament placement is best in years

BY REBECCA ENTEL
Staff Reporter

Finishing off their season, the mens and womens swim teams brought back titles from both the district and state tournaments.

During the last two weeks in February, the swimmers traveled to Cleveland State University to compete against other area schools in the district tournament. Those who qualified moved on to the state tournament in Canton.

The mens team had six state qualifiers in five different events, and placed seventh in the state and third in the district. They were LEL champions this season for the third year in a row.

The womens team had seven state qualifiers in seven events, and also placed third in the district tournament. They were LEL champions for the seventh year in a row.

Junior Tiffany Scheiblauer reached the district final in diving.

"The competition was tough this year but we had a lot of good swimmers," sophomore David Moore said.

One of them was senior Mike Melley who came home with the state title in the 500 freestyle. Melley's time ranked him with the top five swimmers in the nation, giving him automatic All-American status. Senior Diego de Acosta received sixth place in the same event at states and also reached the state finals in the 200 individual medley.

The men placed eighth in the 400 freestyle relay race in the state tournament meet.

De Acosta was proud of the team's accomplishments.

"I think it's the highest we've placed since the early eighties," de Acosta said. "This is the best we've done since I've been on the team."

Senior exchange student Dorthe Windeck won the 50 freestyle event in the state meet and in districts, gaining top ranking in the area. She also finished third in the 100 freestyle in districts.

Windeck received Plain Dealer scholastic Player of the Week honors during the tournaments.

The women placed seventh in states in the 200 free relay.

Coach Ernest Welsch was voted the area's womens coach of the year following the district tournament.

Senior Mike Melley set a new record in the 500 freestyle at the district tournament, where he also won the 200 freestyle.

"I was shooting to get the district record," Melley said. "It feels great to have it."

The Shaker swim teams have consistently done well in past seasons and the swimmers credit this to a lot of hard work and determination.

"We're a strong team with a lot of depth," sophomore Sarah King said. "We all worked really hard throughout the season and had high spirits at the meets."

De Acosta said the team held together, especially when tournament season approached.

"We won a few very close meets and I think that brought us closer together," he said.

Rough season ends for basketball team

BY MICHAEL BECKER
Staff Reporter

It was a down year for the mens basketball team. They lost four fewer games this season than in the previous five years combined.

They also lost in the second round of the sectional tournament to John Adams 76-62.

Coach Bob Wonson said John Adams dominated in every area.

"We had a difficult time defending the basketball," he said. "They also drove to the hoop at will and [controlled] the boards."

Shaker, finishing their season with an overall record of 7-15, was down by only two points at the end of the first quarter. But John Adams scored 23 points to Shaker's 10 in the second. The Cleveland team led 41-26 by the half. Shaker mounted a rally in the fourth quarter, but only got within 12 points of evening the score.

With four minutes left to go in the game, Shaker could not stop John Adams, which compiled a record of 12-7.

Juniors Damon Thomas and Markie Hall lead the team in scoring in the gamewith 15 and 10 points respectively.

"I didn't get [the team] ready to play," Wonson said. "We have enough talent for a better record. I was certainly disappointed in the season."

Wonson had lead the team to district championships, including those in the last three years.

In the first sectional round against East Tech, the team jumped out to an early 25-4 lead shortly before the end of the first quarter.

Wonson said Shaker lost momentum later in their first post-season game, but still got away with a 83-74 victory.

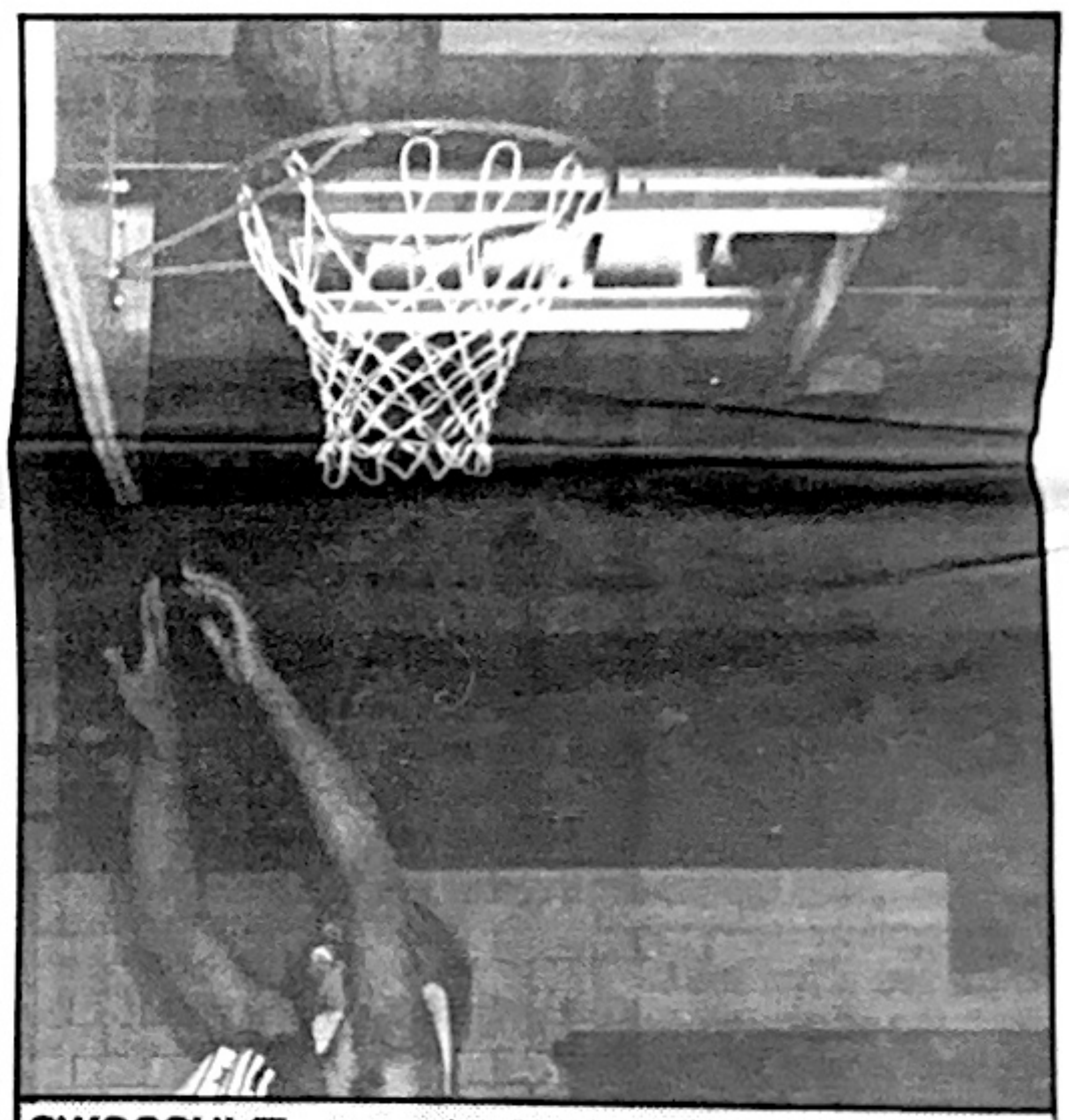
"After [the early start] they outplayed us," he said. "We just held on to the lead to win the game."

The team was led in the game by Hall with 22 points and Thomas with 19.

East Tech ended their season with an 0-16 record.

Wonson said the team may improve next year, but only if the players are willing to work to achieve that goal.

Wonson said despite Shaker's lack of success this season, Cleveland Heights and Shaw, both from the LEL, had as good a chance as any team in the Cleveland area to reach the state tournament.



SWOOSH! The mens basketball team ended the year with a 7-15 record.

Photo courtesy of the Gristmill

TOURNAMENT WRAP-UP

Hockey

Season Record: 24-4-1
Baron Cup Tournament
Score: Shaker 7-4
Sectional
First Round against No. Olmsted
Score: Shaker 11-1
Second Round against Valley Forge
Score: Shaker 7-1
District Round against Padua
Score: Shaker 5-2
Scoring: Chopra (two goals), Ticconi, Mayhugh (two goals)
State Tournament
First Round against St. Johns
Score: Shaker 3-0
Second Round against Bowling Green
Score: Shaker 2-1
Scoring: Updegraft (assisted by Glasson and Simon,) Chopra (assisted by Lockrem and Ulrich)
Shaker Hockey State Tournament History
State champion: 1981, 1993
Runner-Up: 1979
Semi-Finalist: 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1993

Mens Varsity Basketball

Season Record: 7-15
Second Sectional Tournament
First Round against East Tech
Score: Shaker 83-74
Scoring leaders: junior Damon Thomas (19 points,) junior Markie Hall (22 points)
Second Round against John Adams
Score: John Adams 76-62
Scoring leaders: Hall (10 points,) Thomas (15 points)

Womens Varsity Basketball

Season Record: 4-15
First Sectional Round against Solon
Winner: Solon
Scoring leaders for the game: Junior Kelene Jones and junior Raquel Robinson

Season ends on a sour note

BY MICHAEL BECKER
Staff Reporter

The womens basketball team lost in the first round of the sectional tournament to Solon, after completing a season in which they compiled an overall record of 4-15.

The team started the game off well and was leading by two points just before halftime when Solon hit a three-pointer at the buzzer.

Coach Lori Anthony said the team got off to a quick start, but lost their intensity in the end.

"We played an excellent first half," she said. "When we play together we are really tough. [In the second half,] we just didn't play very well."

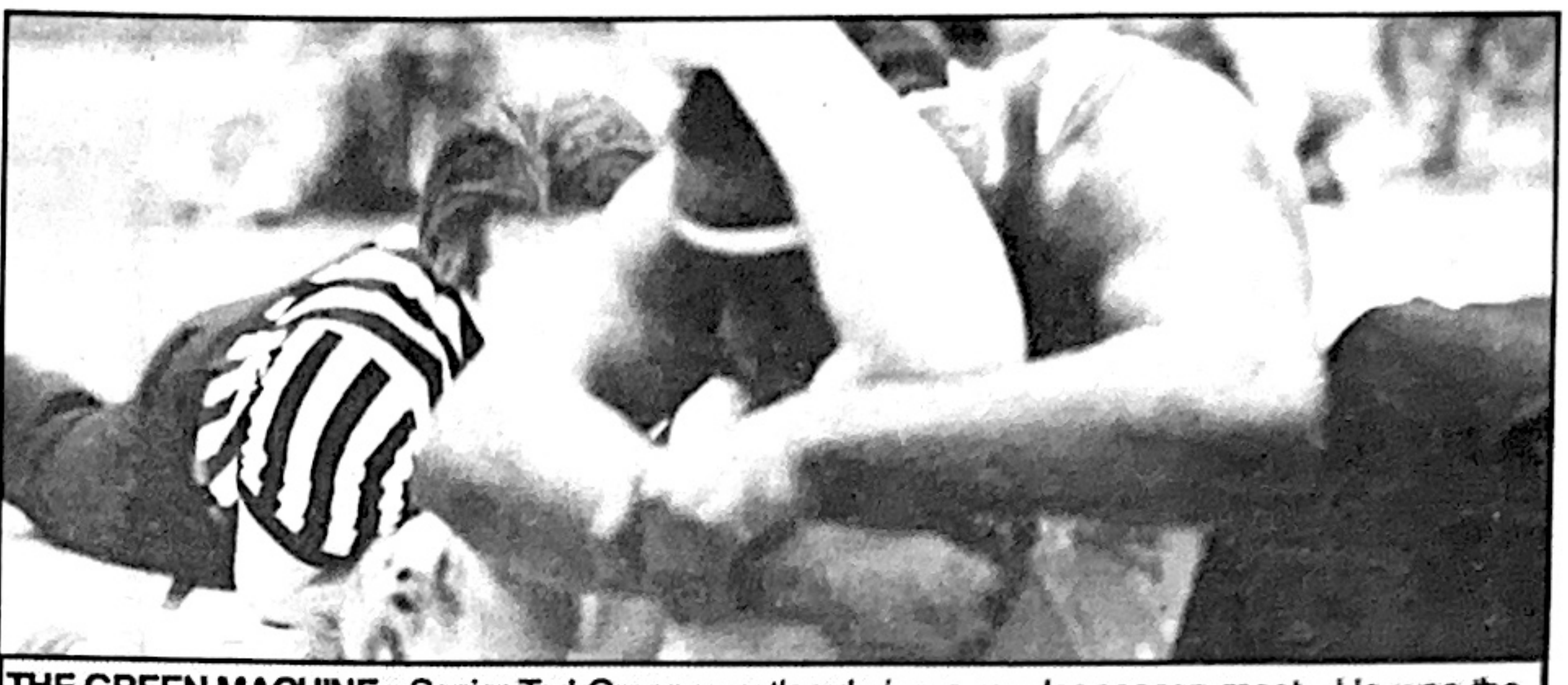
At halftime, Solon, with an overall second record of 14-5, made some defensive changes to which the team did not properly adjust. What was a close game suddenly turned into a Solon-dominated matchup.

"This is a sad way to close the season," Anthony said. "[But] we learned from it, and [next year] we're going to work hard and see changes."

Despite the team's lack of success this year, Anthony said the Cleveland-Akron-Canton-Lorain area was well represented in the tournaments this year. She said Magnificat and Trinity were two northeastern Ohio teams that had as good a chance as any to win this year's state tournament title.

Green reaches state tournament

BY JEFF JABLOW
Staff Reporter



THE GREEN MACHINE. Senior Ted Green wrestles during a regular season meet. He was the only member of the team to reach the state tournament in Dayton.

Shakerite photo by Jason Hamilton

Senior heavyweight Ted Green was the only member of the wrestling team to qualify for the state tournament.

By coming in second in the district tournament, Green got a spot in the state round at Dayton. Green lost the first round of the state tournament to an opponent from Toledo.

"I was winning 5-0 when I twisted my knee in the third period," Green said. "It was my best season. I could have placed at states."

Green lost the district's first place spot to Louis Santiago of St. Edward, who pinned him in the final round of the tournament.

Green came in second place in the sectional tournament at Garfield to qualify for districts. He pinned his last sectional opponent, Mike Brunst of Valley Forge. Green's first round opponent in the sectional, Abe Salti, also of Valley Forge, had beaten him in overtime before, but Green prevailed six to five in a close match.

First-time coach Hank Kornblut congratulated Green on his post-season performance.

"He did a good job with the team we had," Kornblut said.

Two other Shaker wrestlers qualified for the district tournament.

Senior Omar Arrington-Bey finished third in the sectional tournament to qualify for districts in the 171 pound weight class. At the district tournament, Arrington-Bey pinned his first opponent. He then lost to Sam Nector of St. Edward, who won the state tournament. He was defeated in his consolation match in the final minute. He ended his season with a 20-14 record.

"I felt I wrestled pretty good, [although] I wanted to go to states," Arrington-Bey said.

Senior Michael Register also qualified for districts in the 189 pound weight class. Register finished third in the sectional tournament to qualify for districts. He lost his first two matches and ended his season with a record of 11-16.

"I choked in my first match," Register said. "I went out there without a plan."

Kornblut said Register helped the team's overall score this season.

"Michael won the matches that he had to," Kornblut said.

Shaker tied for second in the LEL with Valley Forge.

Arrington-Bey and Kornblut said the team had some problems this season that need to be worked out before next winter.

"The team came along pretty well this year," Arrington-Bey said. "We had problems with injuries and eligibility."

"This year was mildly disappointing," Kornblut said. "Our tournament play was below par. We were only 4-4 in dual meets. I'm going to encourage the kids to lift weights and wrestle during the summer."

Exchange student places in state, district tournaments

READY TO SWIM. Senior exchange student Dorthe Windeck swims on a trip taken by both the mens and womens swimming teams.

Photo courtesy of Catherine McCourt

BY MARK SMITH
Sports Editor

Senior exchange student Dorthe Windeck made an impressive showing at both the state and district swimming tournaments last month.

Windeck placed eighth in the state in the 50 freestyle event with a time of 24.47 seconds. She also reached the state final in the 100 freestyle and had a time of 53.32 seconds in that event.

Windeck placed first in the district in the 50 freestyle and third in the district in the 100 freestyle.

She also participated in two relays at the state tournament, the 200 medley relay and the 100 freestyle relay.

Windeck was part of a womens swim team that placed third in the district tournament and had seven state qualifiers.

She received the Plain Dealer scholastic player of the year honors at the end of the district tournament. The award honored her achievement at districts.

The men swimming team also did well at districts, sending six swimmers to the state tournament.

Senior Mike Melley gained automatic All-American status for his performance in the state final and the mens team placed seventh at states.

Wrestling

State Wrestling Tournament
Heavyweight Division
Senior Ted Green: loses in final round
District Wrestling Tournament
Heavyweight Division
Senior Ted Green: places second in tournament; lost first place to Louis Santiago of Valley Forge, who pinned him in final round of tournament
189-Pound Weight Division
Senior Michael Register: lost first two matches
171-Pound Weight Division
Senior Omar-Arrington Bey" pinned first opponent, lost next, and lost consolation match

Sectional Wrestling Tournament
Heavyweight Division
Senior Ted Green: second place at sectional; won first match, pinned man in second match
189-Pound Weight Class
Senior Omar-Arrington Bey: third place in sectional
171-Pound Weight Class
Senior Omar -Arrington Bey: third place in sectional

Mens Swimming

State Swimming Tournament
Team Placement: placed seventh in tournament
Number of Qualifiers: six

Swimmers:
Senior Mike Melley: wins 500 freestyle race and gains automatic All-American status due to his time at states
Senior Diego de Acosta: places sixth in 500 freestyle race; reaches states in 200 individual relay race at districts
Relay: 400 frestyle relay team places eighth
District Swimming Tournament
Team Placement: third in district tournament
Senior Mike Melley: wins 500 freestyle race, setting district record with his time; wins 200 freestyle race

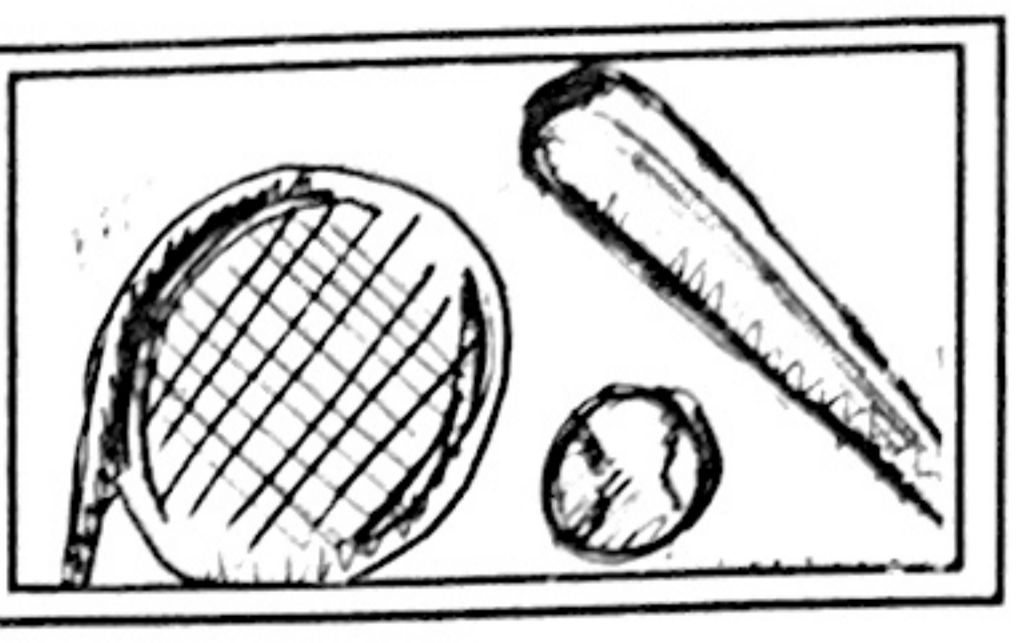
Womens Swimming

State Swiming Tournament
Number of Qualifiers: seven
Senior Dorthe Windeck: wins 50 freestyle race at the state tournament
Relay: placed seventh in the 200 freestyle relay
District Swimming Tournament
Team Placement: third
Senior Dorthe Windeck: wins 50 freestlye race; finished third in 100 freestyle race

SPORTS

Spring teams get set for upcoming season

Spring is upon us once again and the spring sports teams are already hard at practice. Baseball, softball, mens tennis, mens and womens lacrosse and mens and womens track all start their seasons next week, so check your Raider schedule for exact dates and show your school spirit.



New coach works for improvement

BY MARK SMITH
Sports Editor

The new varsity football coach plans to make many fundamental changes when he takes the helm next season.

The new coach, David Sedmak, accumulated a record of 22-8 with Beachwood, where he has coached the last three years.

Sedmak said he plans to take advantage of a more energetic atmosphere at Shaker to help improve a team that has won just five games the last three seasons.

"Shaker is more physical and aggressive [than Beachwood,]" Sedmak said. "Beachwood is more finesse oriented. We do that and are more physical here at Shaker."

Sedmak said he would like to change the team's outlook.

"I'd like to create an... air of confidence," he said.

He said changes in the defensive and offensive strategies are also needed, including a change from the run and shoot offense formulated by former coach Mark Leimsieder.

"We used the familiar wide open passing attack at Beachwood," he said. "And a more in depth running formation. We tried to create a balance between the running and passing games.

Sedmak said he would like to incorporate those strategies at Shaker. He also said he was looking forward to coach a team from a larger school, like Shaker, since he can put more experienced players in the lineup.

"We rely on freshmen and sophomores at Beachwood," he said. "There were always one or two freshmen and four to five sophomores that had to play."

Sedmak said he already has two players in mind for quarterback next year.

"We have two kids very capable of playing in the quarterback position next year," he said. "[Sophomore] Sean Malone and [junior] Brian Frew are both good and are in competition with each other for the position."

ON THE FIELD. New varsity football coach David Sedmak coaching the Beachwood varsity team last year. Sedmak led that team to a combined three season record of 22-8.
Photo courtesy of the Beachcomber

Sedmak said the team will also have good running backs next year and solid receivers. He said that a strong offensive line is a big possibility.

"The big key will be to develop a strong, aggressive offensive line," he said. "The offensive line... needs to [be] a lot better."

Sedmak said the defense will be effective next year.

"[Shaker] played solid defense last year," he said. "We have five to six starters returning. The JV coaches are [praising] their defense. We have a quick linebacker and a pretty solid secondary. We need to replace [seniors] Ted Green and Jack Shelley in the defensive line."

Sedmak said an intensive conditioning program now being implemented will improve performance in the fall.

"Conditioning will in itself create a vast improvement," he said. "We will get better each year." more kids are

The team last season placed fifth in *the league and had an overall record of 3-7, 2-4 in the league.*

Baseball team one of top hitting clubs in city

BY JONATHAN HARRIS
Staff Reporter

The varsity baseball team will be coming onto the field with strong hitting and an optimistic attitude this year according to the team's coach, Buddy Longo.

Returning to the starting line-up are six seniors. The nine players on the starting line all are expected to play strong, according to Longo.

The returning seniors are Andy Ellner, Richard Gates, Brian Guerrier, Doug Hassell, P.J. Kopelson, Doug Rosenbaum, and Chris Sarakaitas.

Longo said junior Brian Frew and Rosenbaum will lead the pack on the team this year.

"Rosenbaum was an all-league [player last season], and Gates is the second or third best pitcher in the league," Longo said. "We also have [sophomore] Phil Rosenbaum, who went 2-2 [last year] as the only freshman pitcher in the team's history."

Longo and Kopelson said they were optimistic that this year's team will be better than last year's, that compiled a 13-14 overall season record.

"We're excited about the season," Longo said, "and have high expectations."

Kopelson also expressed his excitment about the team.

"We should be better this year," senior P.J. Kopelson said. "Basically we're the same team, but the experience we have is going to give us an edge. We should be more focused and concentrated, and I think we can go far in the state tournament."

All the players talked enthusiasticly about the upcoming season.

"We're good. The hitting is there, and if our pitching and defense come together, we'll be great," Guerrier said.

Hassell said after last year the team has pulled together and he expects more victories.

"We lost several one-run games last year which we definitely should have won," senior pitcher Doug Hassell said. "The team has good chemistry and is more mature than last year's team mentally and physically. This should help us win a lot more of these close games."

Even with high hopes, the team still recognizes some weak spots, according to junior, outfielder Greg Taylor. .

"[There is] a lack of pitching depth," Taylor said. "There aren't that many pitchers."

Hassell also said the pitching might be weaker than some of the other team's attributes, but he said it will come together if Gates and the rest of the pitchers come through.

"It all depends on Rich [Gates] primarily and on the second starting pitcher," he said.

Doug Rosenbaum sent a message out to fans in hopes of finding support for the team's positive outlook.

"We're gonna be great this year," Rosenbaum said, "but we really need fans to come and support the team. Last year's turnout was pathetic."

Longo said the club's main LEL rival will be Lakewood.

The team's first game of the season is April 1 at home against Kenston. The next game will be against Warrensville Heights on April 5. It will be a home game.

Mens and womens track teams best in years

BY JEFF JABLOW
AND MARK SMITH
Staff Reporter and Sports Editor

The mens track team is more balanced this year, coming off of a second to last place finish in the LEL last year, according to coach Charles Richard.

"We have a number of participants in field, distance [runners] as well as sprinters," Richard said. "Our weakness is our inexperience."

The team has 12 underclassmen and only 6 upperclassmen and has just finished the indoor track season. Richard said the meets are primarily for conditioning and training purposes.

"We look at most of our [indoor] meets as training," junior Ryan Holliday said. "We are doing well. There is no pressure."

Senior Brendan Carroll said the team's practice is not focused on indoor meets.

"Our type of training is geared for outdoor running," Carroll said.

Holliday, Carroll and Richard said this year's team is probably the best team Shaker has had in several years.

"We have have been running equal with other teams," Richard said. "We have been competitive."

"We have a very good team this year," sophomore Marcus Jackson said.

The team looks to win the LEL title this year with the strength of Holliday's long distance running and two relays in particular, the 4 by 400 and 4 by 800. Runners in these events may include juniors Ryan Benjamin and Dwight Ellis, Carroll and sophomore Tom McMillan, who plans to compete in the 200 and 1600 meter runs.

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The womens track team is a veteran team, according to coach Henry Woodard. The team lost only one senior last year.

Woodard said the team has an excellent chance of placing very well in the state tournament.

"The same people as last year [have a chance of going to states,]" Woodard said. "We have as good a chance as anyone i n the state of Ohio."

Woodard said all the relay teams have the potential to go to the state tournament June 4 and 5. He also said the dashers, including sophomore Heather Hanson, B.J. Long and senior Tracy Scott, and junior Dorrian Thornton are talented runners.

Woodard said he believes senior Joanna Garcia will excel in the high jump. He cited junior Ashley McWilliams as the team's prime distance runner this season.

Woodard also said four to five hurdlers have the chance to make the state tournament as well. He said the team is strong all-around this season.

"We're a strong team in all the areas," he said.

Woodard also said the team has improved greatly with experience.

Senior Beverly Smith said the team will at least place 13th at states, the ranking they attained last year. Smith said the team to beat in the league though will be Cleveland Heights. Heights finished first in the LEL last season.

"One of our [best] runners just transferred to Heights, so their team is not weakening," Smith said. "But I'm not going to say that we can't beat them."